

Hafa Adai!

Ex-FBI special agent testifies in ongoing trial of DOC officer. **PAGE 2**
MCC project manager released pending trial. **PAGE 5**

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Sirok warned CUC board about GPSM deal

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. legal counsel James Sirok told *Saipan Tribune* that he warned the CUC board of red flags associated with the contractor in the emergency procurement of an 8- to 10-megawatt diesel engine.

» **CUC board formally withdraws genset RFQ**

General Pacific Services Marianas Inc. was one of four respondents to a request for quotation, or RFQ, in the emergency procurement of the engine.

Senate wants to focus on Judiciary's needs

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said he would be focusing more on the

The board awarded GPSM the \$11.7-million contract to supply a diesel generator to CUC last Feb. 14, 2017. According to Sirok, it

was agreed that CUC and GPSM would begin discussions on Feb.

See SIROK on Page 4

needs of the CNMI's Judicial Branch when his committee begins meeting with various government, agencies, departments, and divisions for the fiscal year 2018 budget hearing.

The CNMI Superior Court, Supreme Court, Drug Court, Law Revision Commission, and the Judiciary Administrative Office are the agen-

See SENATE on Page 4



ON ALARMING RISE OF CRIMINALITY IN DANDAN

DPS chief defends police on non-release of information

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero cited

limited resources in response to two lawmakers' concern on everyone's safety due to an alarming rate of criminal activities recently in Dandan that remained unsolved, particularly

the killing of a poker arcade security guard and armed robberies.

Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) needs to understand that

men and women at DPS are working hard with the limited resources—equipment, vehicles, and personnel.

“With less than 120 officers, we

See DPS on Page 4

VISIT TO THE EXECUTIVE

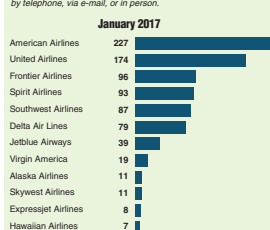
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog were paid a courtesy visit by fifth graders from William S. Reyes Elementary School yesterday. The students were able to visit the Governor's Office on Capitol Hill and learned about the functions of the Executive Branch of the CNMI government.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INSIDE

Consumer complaints of U.S. airlines

Aviation consumer complaints filed with the department in writing, by telephone, via e-mail, or in person.



BUSINESS

United Airlines CEO Oscar Munoz issued his most contrite apology yet as details emerged about a passenger getting dragged off a full United Express flight by airport police.

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WORLD

The Trump administration veered toward deeper conflict with Russia Tuesday as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson arrived in Moscow.

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LIFE & STYLE

Advertisers are fleeing Bill O'Reilly's "no spin zone" on Fox News Channel, but viewers are remaining loyal.

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Local

Ex-FBI special agent testifies in ongoing trial of DOC officer

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A former Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent testified yesterday as the defense's expert witness in the ongoing Superior Court bench trial of Corrections Officer Ray Anthony Maratita Camacho, who is facing charges for beating up an inmate at the Department of Corrections.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo allowed attorney

Colin Thompson, counsel for Camacho, to call out of order the defense's expert witness, Frank Ishizaki, as the latter has to return to Guam.

Shown with one of the video footages of the incident that happened at DOC on April 1, 2016, Ishizaki observed that the alleged victim, Ryan Cavalear, was restrained or handcuffed from the back.

Ishizaki said the way Camacho and Corrections Officer Admisen Dasio Haddy were

holding Cavalear in the arms was not appropriate.

"I don't think you want to dislocate the shoulder," Ishizaki said, adding that if the officers could convince Cavalear to walk as he was already handcuffed, it would be not necessary to hold the arms.

The expert witness said carrying a handcuffed person would only cause more damage to the individual.

Ishizaki said in the video shown him, he is not sure if

Cavalear was resisting but there was a commotion.

"There is no audio so we have to depend on other people to tell on what happened," the former FBI special agent said.

He observed in the footage that Camacho's right hand was hitting Cavalear's face, but that the hand motion appears slow.

Ishizaki said it's only Camacho and Haddy who can explain what Camacho was doing.

He said it could be that Camacho was avoiding Cavalear's

head from hitting the steel door.

Ishizaki said he does not see a violation of DOC policy if Camacho was only trying to stop Cavalear's face from hitting the door.

On cross-examination, Ishizaki said the use of force against a detainee needs a justification to apply it.

The expert witness said once a detainee is handcuffed, there is no need to inflict pain on him.

He said an officer can inflict pain on a detainee to achieve compliance with an

instruction.

Ishizaki said an officer should care when an inmate says he has injury by inflicting no pain at all.

After Ishizaki's testimony, assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley, counsel for the government, resumed calling their witnesses.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday late afternoon, Corrections Sgt. Joaquin Sablan was still on the witness stand. Sablan was the shift commander when the alleged beating happened.

Company sues 2 men for fraud over failed UB40 band's concerts

An entertainment company yesterday filed a lawsuit in federal court against two men who allegedly defrauded the firm of \$115,000 by misrepresenting to have the famous English reggae and pop band UB40 perform in Guam and Saipan in 2015.

Steven Brownstein, who is doing business as Steven Brownstein Entertainment, is suing Jason H. Aldan and Fredrick Holloman for fraud, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment.

Aldan is a former CNMI resident who is now staying in Honolulu. He is involved in the entertainment business op-

erating as RawCandyHawaii, according to the lawsuit.

Holloman, a resident of the State of California, is allegedly engaged in business through an entity known as Shae Entertainment/Management located in La Jolla, California.

Ten unnamed co-defendants were also included in the lawsuit.

Brownstein asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold the defendants liable to pay him damages, interest, and court costs.

According to the lawsuit, on June 2, 2015, Brownstein entered into a contract with Hollo-

man to provide various services relating to the performance of UB40 in Saipan and in Guam.

In this contract, Holloman agreed that UB40 would perform on Aug. 7, 2015 at the Grey Hound Park of Guam, and on Aug. 8, 2015 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa on Saipan.

On July 20, 2015, Holloman entered into a new contract with Brownstein, which changed the UB40 performance dates to Dec. 11-12, 2015.

It was Aldan who introduced Brownstein to Holloman.

Based upon the defendants' representations, Brownstein expended substantial funds to pro-

mote the performance of UB40 in both Saipan and Guam.

To guarantee UB40's performance in Saipan and Guam, Brownstein wired \$78,000 on June 5, 2015 at the Bank of Hawaii on Saipan to Holloman's account at the Comerica Bank in San Diego, California.

Holloman falsely represented to Brownstein that he would deposit \$65,000 as "artist deposit" to secure UB40's appearance.

On July 22, 2015, Brownstein caused \$37,000 to be transferred from his Bank of Hawaii account on Saipan to Aldan's Bank of Hawaii ac-

count in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Aldan allegedly represented that these funds would be used to secure the appearance of the band in Saipan and in Guam.

On July 24, 2015, Aldan wired the \$37,000 to Holloman's account at the Comerica Bank in San Diego, California.

On Jan. 26, 2016, Brownstein received an email from David Shephard to "Paramount Entertainment" stating that Brownstein was in "breach of contract."

The email further stated that the requisite funds were not submitted to UB40 and instructed Paramount to "cease and desist from any further activity involving UB40..."

On May 6, 2016, Brownstein sent a letter to Holloman demanding immediate reimbursement of \$115,000.

Brownstein also communicated with Aldan regarding this matter, but the latter has refused to provide an accounting of the funds.

Brownstein alleged that Aldan conspired with Holloman and the other defendants to defraud him.

Brownstein said because of the defendants' acts he has incurred damages such as funds paid to the defendants, marketing efforts in Guam and in Saipan, ticket sales, injury to reputation, and other damages. (Ferdie de la Torre)



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Red Cross Walkathon on Saipan raises over \$77K

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The 31st Annual Red Cross Walkathon held last April 1 on Saipan raised a total of \$77,241.46 for the local chapter of the humanitarian organization, according to John Hirsh, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director.

The amount, however, represents only tabulated pledges from the schools on Saipan and doesn't yet include donations from schools on Tinian and Rota.

This year, the Oleai Elementary School raised \$13,063 in pledges with 325 registered walkers. Oleai remains the school with the largest amount in donations and largest number of walkers. There were 66 students from the school that raised more than \$75 in pledges. These students will be rewarded with two free waterpark tickets to the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"We are incredibly grateful to the leadership of Oleai Elementary and their lead walkathon coordinator Ms. Carreon," said Tayna Belyeu Camacho, Red Cross event co-chair. "We are humbled by their year in and year out support of the Red Cross and our humanitarian mission. Oleai is teaching their students life long lessons about volunteerism and helping those who are less fortunate," added Camacho.

Agape Christian School came in second in the amount of donations. The school raised a total of \$5,175. Agape had a total of 128 walkers who participated in the Walkathon with 36 students raising \$75 or more and were rewarded with two free waterpark tickets to PIC Saipan.

Mount Carmel School came in third for the largest amount in donations raising \$5,027. Some 149 students from the school participated in the Walkathon and 18 received waterpark tickets for raising \$75 or more.

William S. Reyes Elementary School came in fourth in the amount of donations. The school raised \$4,377 in donations with 166 students participating in the Walkathon. A total of 14 students received waterpark tickets for raising \$75 or more in pledges.

Brilliant Star School raised \$409 with 16 students participating in the Walkathon.

The HeadStart program on Saipan raised \$3,302 in donations. There were 138 students from the HeadStart program who registered to

walk at the Walkathon. Five students from the HeadStart raised \$75 and received the incentive of two water park tickets to PIC Saipan.

ChaCha Ocean View Junior High School raised \$1,369 in donations. ChaCha had 78 participants who registered for the walk and two received two free waterpark passes to PIC for raising \$75.

Dandan Middle School raised \$1,338 with 33 students participating in the Walkathon. Five students received waterpark tickets to PIC Saipan for raising \$75 or more.

Garapan Elementary School raised \$3,381 with 157 participants in the Walkathon. One student received waterpark tickets to PIC Saipan for raising \$75.

Golden Harvest School raised \$850 in donations with 40 students participating in the walk.

Grace Christian Academy raised \$2,628 in donations with 73 students participating in the walk. Seven students raised \$75 or more, making them eligible to get two free waterpark tickets to PIC.

Green Meadow School raised \$1,478 in donations with 95 students participating in the walk. One student received two waterpark tickets to PIC for raising \$75 worth of donations.

Gregorio T. Camacho School raised \$2,461 in donations with 77 students representing at the walk. Ten students received two water park tickets for raising \$75 worth of donations.

Hopwood Junior High School raised \$1,312 in donations with 60 students representing the school at the walkathon. Only one student received waterpark tickets to PIC.

K-5 Childhood Development raised 844 dollars worth of donations with 28 students joining the walk. Five raised \$75 or more earning them water park tickets to PIC.

Kagman Elementary School raised \$1,833 in donations with 62 students participating in the walkathon. Six students received water park tickets for raising \$75 in donations or more.

Kagman High School raised \$431 with 17 students representing the school at the Walkathon. One student received waterpark tickets for raising \$75 in donations or more.

Koblerville Elementary School raised \$2,819 in donations. About 123 students from the school participated in the Walkathon. Four students raised \$75 earning two waterpark tickets to PIC.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter board members Patty P. McDonald and Nola Hix with student volunteers.

Marianas Baptist Academy raised \$1,182 in donations with 50 students participating in the Walkathon.

Marianas High School raised \$1,503 in donations and 69 students took part in the Walkathon with two students receiving waterpark tickets to PIC for earning \$75.

Saipan Community School raised \$1,304 in donations with 49 students representing the school at the Walkathon. Five students received waterpark tickets to PIC for raising \$75 in donations or more.

Saipan Southern High School raised \$1,522 in donations with 83 students par-

See RED CROSS on Next Page



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SIROK

From Page 1

28, 2017 based on prior discussions with the board.

The CUC legal counsel told *Saipan Tribune* that he, along with the vendor selection committee, pushed for ending negotiations with GPSM to the CUC board.

"It was me that notified management that there were problems with GPSM and that we probably should not move forward with the contract," said Sirok.

According to Sirok, he communicated with selection committee chair and CUC deputy director William Gilmore his doubts with GPSM.

"Quite frankly, my opinion is that [we should not move forward with GPSM]. As a result of him seeing that communication, [Gilmore] wrote [a recommendation urging the CUC board to end negotiations with GPSM]," he said.

In a letter dated March 3, 2017, Gilmore wrote to the

CUC board that the vendor selection committee is recommending ending negotiation of terms with GPSM and reopening negotiations with Wartsila, another respondent to the RFQ.

According to Gilmore, the CUC board pushed through with GPSM, despite that fact that the engine provided by Wartsila was less than GPSM by \$1.7 million; did not include an excise tax payment requirement in their price; is more fuel and lube oil efficient, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars per year; and had a lesser cost of maintenance spare parts for the 36,000 hours required for the engine.

The only drawback, according to Gilmore's letter, was that Wartsila would take 10 weeks longer than GPSM's engine delivery.

According to CUC reports, respondents for the RFQ include GPSM, Wartsila, Wuxi, and Aggreko.



Sirok

The exact price for GPSM's engine is \$11,779,200. Wartsila is \$10,085,629, and Wuxi is \$6,528,359.

Wuxi, a Chinese company, was the least qualified of the respondents, according to CUC reports.

Aggreko is a generator rental company and was not considered by the CUC board as it was buying to own.

CUC formally withdraws genset RFQ

CUC executive director Gary Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that the "CUC board has voted to cancel RFQ 17-001," the RFQ that associated with the purchase of the replacement engine, which RFQ was won by controversial GPSM.

Both oversight hearings conducted by House and Senate Public Transportation and Utilities Committees last Tuesday ended with the two committees recommending the CUC board to rethink the

procurement of the replacement engine due to possible "unlawful and unethical" actions of the board and the legitimacy of the contractor, namely General Pacific Services Marianas, or GPSM.

"The board has taken the recommendations of both the Senate and the House members. However, CUC would again reinstate the effort to procure a replacement engine to address [the] urgent need of power generation," said Camacho.

Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that there were good responses by vendors in the past and confirmed that there was interest present. As of now, the focus of CUC is to go through the procurement process correctly.

"Moving forward in dealing with this, CUC definitely wants to do this correctly. We want to ensure that we do it in a matter that does not impede the acquisition of this needed engine," said Camacho.

According to Camacho, the number of hotels connecting to CUC and the increasing

number of developments justified the emergency situation.

Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel and Kensington Hotel would be connecting directly to CUC.

"To try to achieve a 40-megawatt reserve capacity, the power generation personnel believe that we need this engine," he said.

Oath-taking was voluntary

Sirok also clarified with *Saipan Tribune* that he did not tell the board members not to take oath.

"What I indicated to the

chairman of the senate Public Transportation and Utilities Committee is that the board members are not going to say anything until I make a statement. I did not tell them not to take the oath," said Sirok.

According to Sirok, the Senate PTUC "could not require someone to take an oath unless they advise that person that they have the opportunity to have a legal counsel present during the time that they are providing testimony under oath."

Sirok pointed out that the Senate PTUC failed to provide such advice.

DPS

From Page 1

have to cover the entire island with limited resources," Guerrero said.

With regard to criminal cases, the commissioner said they release information to the public that will not jeopardize the investigation.

"And that goes to all cases, inclusive with incidents that occur in Dandan," Guerrero said.

Propst and Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) expressed alarm on the spate of armed robberies as well as the recent homicide in Dandan.

Propst is one of the six lawmakers of Precinct 1 where Dandan is located.

Propst and Villagomez said DPS should increase their police presence especially in villages where it is needed most.

Noting that it took DPS more than a week to release information to the media after the killing of poker security guard Jim Nimwes, lawmakers also stressed that the public has also the right to know of any heinous crime that took place.

The lawmakers questioned DPS why it took them more than a week to release information on what happened to Nimwes.

"Time went by and they only released information more than a week later. Why did DPS take so long and why did they not let the Dandan neighborhood know about it? If someone is murdered, you want information ASAP. This is a huge concern, to have no information and have it released 10 days after," Propst said.

Villagomez said DPS does not have to release any details but at least acknowledge that something happened.

"Like if a dead body was found, if this is suspicious incident or if there's foul play," Villagomez said.

Nimwes was found with massive injuries in the morning of March 16 next to JL Poker along Dandan

Road, where he worked as a security guard. The following night, March 17, a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center pronounced him dead.

Last March 24, Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola conducted an autopsy and determined that Nimwes died due to blunt force trauma. Police classified the death as a homicide.

DPS and the NMI Crime Stoppers Program only released information about the homicide last March 27. In that release, DPS and Crime Stoppers asked the public's help for information about the guard's killing.

Saipan Tribune then asked DPS acting information officer Jason Tarkong why the information was released only last March 27 when the incident happened last March 16 and that Nimwes died on March 17, but there was no reply from the officer.

Two armed robbery cases happened in Dandan over a one-month period. No one was arrested yet in both cases.

Last March 24 at night, a storeowner and his wife were injured when a masked man armed with a machete and a handgun that his believed to be a toy robbed the 7 Star Market along Dandan Road. The suspect, who was believed to be injured, ran away with undetermined amount of cash.

Saipan Tribune ran the story about the 7 Star Market robbery last March 27 after getting tips from the social media and interviewing the store owner. DPS and Crime Stoppers released information to the media on that same day, March 27, about the robbery.

Last Feb. 20 at night, a masked man pointed a handgun at a storeowner and sprayed at the victim with pepper mace during a robbery at LZ Market, also located along Dandan Road. The suspect managed to escape with \$800 in cash. DPS and Crime Stoppers did not release information about the robbery.

RED CROSS

From Page 3

ticipating in the Walkathon.

San Antonio Middle School raised \$1,043 in donations with 69 participants from the school at the Walkathon.

San Vicente Elementary School raised \$2,666 in donations with 120 students partici-

pating at the walkathon. Four students raised \$75 in donations earning them water park tickets to PIC.

Tanapag Middle School raised \$171 in donations with six participants at the Walkathon. One student raised \$75 in donations earning them water park tickets to PIC.

Whispering Palms School raised \$230 in donations

with three students participating in the Walkathon.

The Red Cross thanks all its corporate sponsors and donors who made this year's event so memorable. The Walkathon had a total of 2,766 registered walkers on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. With family members, health fair, and Red Cross volunteers there were over 3,200 participants.

Hirsh thanked all the participants and sponsors of the 2017 Red Cross Walkathon and declared ARC-NMI Chapter's signature fundraising event a "great success."

"The 31st Annual Red Cross Walkathon was another great success thanks to the tireless efforts of our public and private schools," he said.

SENATE

From Page 1

cies under the Judiciary.

Hofschneider is the chair of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs that's tasked to review all the finances and financial administration of the CNMI government.

He said that he would first meet with House Ways and Means committee head Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) to begin their deliberations on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' budget proposal for fiscal year 2018.

"First, I need to meet with [Rep. Demapan]. We need to discuss each of the points raised on the governor's budget for the coming fiscal year. We have to digest and scrutinize the proposal," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday.

That's why the Tinian lawmaker wanted to pay close attention to the Judiciary's budget since the third co-equal branch of the government's needs and activities are expected to increase in the coming fiscal year.

The CNMI Drug Court, which is under the jurisdic-

tion of the CNMI Superior Court, is expected to hire additional personnel for its operations.

"On the Senate's side, the Judiciary's budget request is what I want to pay close attention to. The Drug Court has stated its operations since it was established a few years ago and they would be needing [full time equivalents] to fill job positions," added Hofschneider.

The CNMI Drug Court was created through Public Law 19-14 that was signed by then acting governor Torres on Oct. 28, 2015. Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio was designated as the Drug Court judge.

The Drug Court is a specialized court that incorporates drug dependency treatment with judicial supervisions for both adult and juvenile defendants. The court would provide rehabilitation for drug dependents while at the same time protecting the community.

The CNMI Drug Court currently employs TaAnn Kabua (caseload coordinator), Jaclyn T. Mendiola, Jane P. McCale (certified caseworkers),

and Matilde Bermudes (probation officer).

Hofschneider said the Judiciary is requesting at least an additional \$2 million with most of it on the expected increase in their operations especially on the needs of the Drug Court, which goes together with the Torres administration's anti drug campaign.

Yvette Sablan was appointed by Torres as the Governor's Office's special assistant for Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation Program, where she's tasked to coordinate and collaborate with the CNMI Drug Court on how to serve individuals who chose to get treatment of their drug dependency.

"It is important to also note about the governor's initiative in battling the substance abuse situation in the CNMI. This is one big issue and what we've been dealing right now in the CNMI," said Hofschneider.

"The Drug Court is basically dealing with the same issue so we need to get a grasp on how the current structure right now is working. How would the structure would work hand-in-hand [Drug Court and Sablan's

MCC project manager released pending trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the CNMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied Tuesday the U.S. government's motion for detention pending trial against MCC International project manager Yuqing Zhao, who is among six persons being charged in connection with unlawful employment of Chinese workers at the ongoing construction of the multi-million-dollar resort and casino project of Imperial Pacific International in Garapan.

At the detention hearing, Manglona said the U.S. government failed to show by preponderance of evidence of flight risk.

Manglona allowed Zhao's pre-trial release pending trial subject to some conditions.

Manglona said Zhao will be placed on home detention; accompanied by a third party custodian he is allowed to leave his residence to work; submit to location monitoring; not seeking a new passport; and not leaving Saipan without court's prior permission; observe a daily 5:30pm to 7:30am curfew; among other conditions.

Former representative Chris Leon Guerrero serves as third party custodian for Zhao.

Manglona noted that Zhao, has a CW permit, has no prior criminal cases, and that the charges are not violent offenses, and there is no weapon or drugs involved.

In moving for defendant's detention, assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley noted that in *Saipan Tribune's* headline Tuesday, the U.S. Customs

and Border Patrol revealed that there are 1,032 overstaying tourists worked illegally in the CNMI.

"We are not sure who they are and where they are," O'Malley said.

O'Malley said their concern is there could be a situation when Zhao would remove the monitoring bracelet, someone would purchase plane ticket for him, and he would depart the Commonwealth before the U.S. Probation Office receives a tampering alert.

Defense counsel Colin Thompson said there is no evi-

dence presented to that 1,032 alleged overstaying tourists that worked illegally.

Thompson compared to the movie and TV series *Mission Impossible* O'Malley's scenario about removing the monitoring bracelet, going to the airport, and departing the CNMI. Thompson even copied the *Mission Impossible* famous tune, drawing laughter from the judge and people in the courtroom.

Thompson noted that no one has ever left the CNMI while under the U.S. Probation Office's monitoring program. He

the courtroom.

MCC International is the construction contractor for Imperial Pacific. Beilida Overseas is a subcontractor of MCC. The offices of the two companies in Garapan were searched by the Federal Bureau of Investigation recently.

Zhao was arrested on charges of unlawful employment of aliens and bringing in and harboring certain aliens.

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MCS students accepted into JSA Program



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Mount Carmel School Knights Nathaniel Snodgrass, Jonelle Toskas, Jeff Melchor, and Michelle Palacios.

Four Mount Carmel School students were recently accepted to attend Junior State of America programs this summer, including two students who received full scholarships. This is the second year in a row that two Knights have received the full scholarships funded by the U.S. Department of Interior.

Michelle Palacios, Jeff Melchor, and Jonelle Toskas were all accepted to attend, with Melchor and Toskas earning full scholarships to their respective programs. The three students, all juniors, applied earlier in the year with the assistance of JSA alumni and MCS JSA president, Nathaniel Snodgrass.

Snodgrass attended last year's program at Stanford

and was very eager to help this year's batch of students. As he put it, "It's a great program that really helped me learn more about politics and government." He added, "It's also a perfect way to prepare for college."

Toskas was accepted to attend the program at Princeton University and is excited about the opportunity. "I am overjoyed because Princeton is one of my dream schools. The fact that I get to go there feels really good."

Melchor was accepted to attend the program at Stanford University. Melchor said, "I look forward to exploring opportunities, including meeting new people, learning new perspectives, and improving my public speaking skills." (MCS)

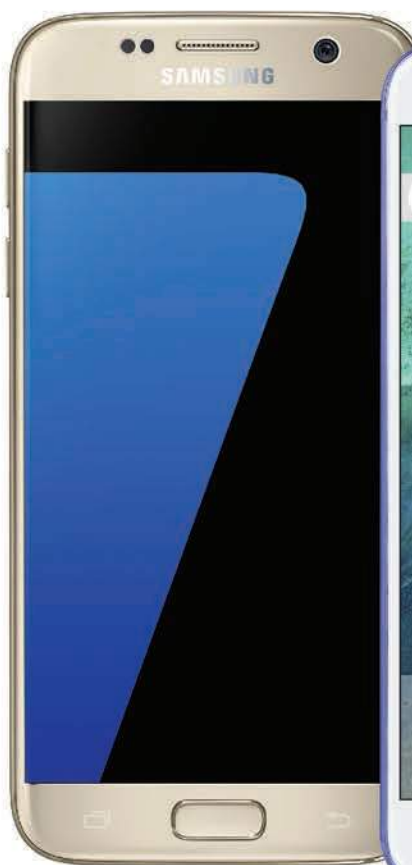
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Appreciation Message

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On behalf of Pali Jesse T. Reyes, Pastor of Santa Soledad Parish and the Parishioners of Santa Soledad, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt and Un Sen Dangkulu na Si Yuus Maase to all the people of God who in one way or another have contributed to the success of the 2017 Santa Soledad Fiesta on April 2, 2017. We truly appreciate the donors listed below be it In-Kind or Monetary donations, they were equally valued. If for whatever reason we inadvertently missed your name, please accept our apology.

To those who have helped in one way or another and their names were not included, we also extend our utmost Si Yuus Maase from the very bottom of our hearts.

The community have expressed their love and support to our Blessed Mother in partaking to this wonderful celebration.

May through the intercession of our Patron Saint, Santa Soledad, may God continue to grace you with abundant blessings and prosperity.

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Once again, Thank you for your generosity and love to our Blessed Mother of Sorrow, Patron Saint of Kagman.

Yours in Christ,

The 2017 Santa Soledad Fiesta Committee

Local law appropriates \$160,000 to Tinian

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian will be receiving \$160,000 in appropriations from local license fees collected from pachinko slot and poker machines in the Second Senatorial District. Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog signed in acting capacity House Local Bill 20-9, D1 on Friday.

The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation passed HLB 20-9 or Tinian Local Law 20-2 during their first regular session on March 31. The funds appropriated are without fiscal year limitations.

The money appropriated, which was collected in accordance with TLL 14-2, would

be used for various programs for the people of Tinian. The Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan is among five entities that are the recipients of the funds.

The Tinian Mayor's Office will be getting the bulk of the appropriation with \$81,000 with the money to be used to pay for personnel, for their daily operations and public programs, and contingency measures.

The Inter-island Medical Referral program is allotted \$35,000, while the Tinian Guest House would get \$18,000 for its vehicle lease, and fuel and lube, while



\$16,000 is for professional services, and \$10,000 for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas is the one authorized to release and distribute the funds appropriated under Section 2 (a), (c), (d), and (e) while the Tinian Municipal Scholarship chair for Section 2 (b).

The \$160,000 will be transferred to an account set up by the Tinian Municipal Treasurer, who would then regulate and control the release of funds in accordance of fiscal management policies of the Municipality of Tinian.

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For more information please send us an email at: events@bccnmi.com or give us a call at: 670-322-2222

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9AM-12PM SAIPAN WORLD RESORT

Attend NMC's Career Fair and you might just meet your next employer. The Career Fair will feature more than 40 businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations who are looking to hire!

For Career Fair details, visit marianas.edu.

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iPhone 7



Galaxy S7 Edge

Triple J teams up with ChaCha Middle School for 2017 MMAC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Truckload and Five Star Wholesale Foods general manager Jay Santos poses with Triple J warehouse manager Tony Sablan, Surf Rider Resort Hotel general manager Ryuhei Kono, and Sales specialist Patrick Aguon.

Triple J is partnering with ChaCha Middle School for their second year participating in MMAC as team 3J4Life. This is ChaCha's third year participating as a team, last year they partnered with Best Sunshine.

"We are so excited to be pairing up with a school this year," said Iliana Pacheco, Marketing manager for Triple J. "Planning this 24-hour event can be challenging and I'm so happy to work with

the amazing folks at ChaCha. This year is going to be better than ever!"

Team 3J4Life fundraising activities include a \$1 donation for every ice tea sold at Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Truong's, and Surf Club and \$1 donation for every speckled lemonade sold at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Plus, Nathan's Famous Hot Dog fundraiser events every Saturday of April starting at 10am at the Oleai Sports Complex. Excluding

holy weekend (April 14-16).

On April 8, the first hot dog sales fundraiser of the month, sold out of hot dogs after the second round of games. For only \$5 customers receive a foot-long Nathan's Famous dog with all the fixings and a bottle of water.

"It was a gorgeous day for baseball and what goes better with baseball than hot dogs?" Jay Santos, general manager of Five Star Wholesale Foods and Triple J Truckload Store.

"We love coming out here to support the little league as well as raise some funds for such a great cause! Stop by for lunch on Saturday!" Santos added.

Team 3J4Life will be selling hot dogs Saturday, April 22, from 10am until sell out at the Oleai Sports Complex. All proceeds go to MMAC.

For more information, please visit Truckload's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/triplejtruckload/. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Water service interruption for San Vicente, Dandan, Obyan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled water service interruption today, April 13, from 8am to 5pm in the San Vicente, Dandan, and Obyan areas. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon thereafter.

CUC Water Operations personnel will be replacing gate valves and fire hydrants along Dandan Loop Street as part of an ongoing leak detection and repair project. This project will enhance CUC's capability to isolate problematic areas in the future to perform repairs and maintenance and reduce inconvenience to our consumers. For the safety of our men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or


monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)

Transfer station, landfill closed on Good Friday

In observance of Good Friday, both the Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill facilities will be closed on April 14, 2017. (PR)

Training sessions on 'customer service'

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions present "Customer Service Excellence" a training seminar that will be conducted on April 20, 2017, from 9am to 12pm at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor). The afternoon session will be from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Registration fee is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited. To register, call 234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. (PR)



CIP PROGRAM OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lieutenant Governor

INVITATION TO BID
ITB17-GOV-130
Purchase of Tractor Mower for Tinian DLNR

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) office, are soliciting sealed bids for the **Purchase of Tractor Mower for Tinian DLNR**, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package is available at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining a package at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid meeting will be held at Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor at the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill on April 20, 2017, 10:00 a.m. All inquiries regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. Saipan local time on April 25, 2017, to the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan or via email to esb.cip@gmail.com (Elizabeth Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager) or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB17-GOV-130". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 10, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 10, 2017, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 10, 2017 and must be received no later than 10:00 a.m. than May 17, 2017. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., ChST, May 17, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will open at 2:00 p.m. Saipan local time, on May 10, 2017.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:


- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor

Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-2375
Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
For the ASSESSMENT of the FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM at the
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS in SUSUPE, SAIPAN
RFP17-GOV-114

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Capital Improvement Office (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the **Assessment of the Fire Sprinkler System at the Department of Correction Facility** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package is available at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on Friday, April 7, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill. Questions regarding the Request for Proposals shall be addressed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager, CIP Office, at esb.cip@gmail.com or facsimile (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m., ChST, April 17, 2017.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience on similar projects	40%
2. Past Performance with Similar Projects	40%
3. Cost	20%

Performance time for completion of this project is 120 calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract price will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFP17-GOV- "Assessment of the Fire Sprinkler System at the Department of Correction Facility" in Susupe, Saipan. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 26, 2017. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose.

Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, April 26, 2017 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 26, 2017 and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than May 5, 2017. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Tillerson's trip to Moscow

No matter what is accomplished by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's timely visit to Moscow this week, the somewhat press-shy former ExxonMobil CEO already scored a few points at home with a smart takedown of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Perhaps more important, he has already demonstrated respect for factual reality and for the potential benefits of diplomacy, neither of which President Donald Trump seems to share.

First, the takedown. When asked on the Sunday talk shows, Tillerson observed that the recent use of chemical weapons in Syria reflected Russian "incompetence" for its failure to hold up a 2013 agreement in which it guaranteed destruction of Bashar Assad's chemical arsenal. That hits Putin where he lives, as he either has to stick to his patently false claim that no chemical weapons attack took place or admit to Russia's failure. Had a Russian opponent made such an assertion, he'd probably be looking out for a hit squad right about now.

But here's the other notable observation by the secretary of state: He also spoke unabashedly over the weekend about Russia's meddling in the last election and how it "undermines any hope of improving relations" with the United States. He even went further, fretting that Russia is now pursuing "similar tactics" to affect elections in Europe. Apparently, the "fake news" tweets of President Trump that this is all a liberal media fantasy haven't quite made it to Foggy Bottom.

While we don't relish the thought of another Cold War (and mercifully, we're still a long distance from that), Tillerson's healthy skepticism of Putin is a welcome respite, given the ongoing FBI and Congressional investigations into Russian hacking and the possibility of collusion with Trump associates — a prospect that has become increasingly worrisome with the House Intelligence Committee's near-implosion over the matter and its ethically compromised chairman's recent choice to recuse himself from further deliberations.

Trump's cruise missile strike was a reasonable and measured action given the horrors of the chemical attack against civilians in Syria, but it's the military equivalent of a text message — swift and fleeting — and not a long-term foreign policy. Tillerson now has the really heavy lift, to try to craft a reasonable U.S. strategy regarding the disaster that is Syria with its civil war and Islamic State involvement. Attempting to put some space between Putin and Assad is probably a good starting point. Just as President Barack Obama sought to bring Russian influence to bear, Trump must realize that Putin and not U.S. military might alone holds the key to progress in the region.

Trump security adviser urges Russia to rethink Syria support

Given that Tillerson's own ties to Putin (and lack of diplomatic experience) raised doubts about his ap-

See **TILLERSON'S** on Next Page



Centrist high court has been with us a long time

With the swearing-in Monday of Justice Neil Gorsuch, the U.S. Supreme Court's configuration shifts to a 4-4 balance with a single centrist justice as the swing vote. If that sounds familiar, it should. It's been the normal state of affairs since 1986, when Justice Antonin Scalia joined, and on some issues all the way back to Richard Nixon's administration.

This time, of course, the configuration results from the Republican Senate's unprecedented and successful gamble to block President Barack Obama from filling Scalia's seat. His pick, Judge Merrick Garland, would have given the liberals a clear, consistent majority for the first time since the days of Chief Justice Earl Warren — unless and until President Donald Trump had the chance to replace one of the court's liberals.

It's worth exploring the fascinating phenomenon of the enduring centrist court, and asking the question: Is it an accident? Or is it a feature of the Supreme Court in its current condition, when liberal and conservative justices are all activists?

The court's composition follows from a feature of constitutional design that includes some luck, namely that justices can serve for life and that the president who's in office gets to nominate the replacement (or used to). If the presidency changes parties with some regularity, and justices retire or die on an arbitrary schedule, that should ensure some balance.

The first condition has been fulfilled since the death of Franklin Roosevelt, who was elected four times and picked an astonishing nine justices if you include a chief who was already on the court. If you start with Harry Truman, the longest run of one party in the presidency has been twelve years, for two terms of Ronald Reagan and one for George H.W. Bush. Otherwise, the presidency has typically flipped parties every eight years, with Jimmy Carter's single term leading to the only shorter flip.

The second condition hasn't been fulfilled perfectly, because some justices retire when they like the president who will replace them. But there has been surprisingly little of that strategic choice by the justices, despite the politicization of the process. Chief Justice William Rehnquist died in office, as did Scalia. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor retired because of her husband's failing health.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stayed on the court past Barack Obama's presidency despite being well into her 80s and having survived not one but two bouts with cancer. If that's not a rejection of the strategic approach, I don't know what is.

But beyond constitutional structure, there's another extraordinary, non-accidental fact about the centrist court: It's been maintained in large part by individual justices' drift to the center.

The most salient example is Justice Anthony Kennedy. He's the swing vote today, as he has been since O'Connor retired a

By **NOAH FELDMAN**

Bloomberg View

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg View columnist. Readers may email him at nfeldman7@bloomberg.net.



decade ago. But for nearly 20 years before that, Kennedy wasn't perceived as the swing voter — O'Connor was. Kennedy was considered a reliable conservative, with a few outlying liberal opinions on equality for gay people and the abortion compromise in *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*, in which he wrote a joint opinion with O'Connor and Justice David Souter.

It's not that Kennedy just seemed more liberal when O'Connor retired. He actually became more liberal. His liberal opinions in recent years on abortion and affirmative action prove this definitively. Each represented a real shift leftward from his earlier opinions on the same subject.

Kennedy's shift had internal theoretical motivations, no doubt, grounded in the development of his jurisprudence of equal dignity. But it also resulted from the natural impulse to influence and power that comes from being the swing vote.

The court's way of setting precedent gives enormous power to the swing voter. If there's no majority opinion, the narrowest opinion for the result that gets five votes becomes controlling precedent.

Even if the swing voter joins the majority opinion and writes a separate concurrence, his or her narrow opinion has a way of becoming the majority opinion in future cases, as the other justices try to win the votes of the swing justice.

O'Connor made new law in this fashion. One example is her "endorsement" theory of the establishment clause. Originally introduced in a solo concurrence in a case where she provided the fifth vote, it was adopted a few years later by the majority in another case.

The upshot is that the center-most justice, measured by ideology, will always have an incentive to tack toward the middle under the existing system. For the moment, that is still Kennedy.

But when Kennedy is no longer in the center, some other justice may emerge to take center stage, literally.

I'm not guaranteeing a centrist court forever. But if Justices Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer can hold out until a Democratic president is elected, or if a Democratic Senate denies Trump any appointments until a Democrat replaces him, we may see the centrist Supreme Court remaining into the distant future.

Maybe the American people want it that way.

United shows it considers its passengers expendable

The adage about a picture being worth a thousand words never seemed as true as it did Monday when a video clip shot around the Internet showing a passenger being violently removed from a United Airlines plane in Chicago for refusing to be “voluntarily” bumped from the flight.

United no doubt will expend thousands of words explaining or apologizing for this incident in the coming days and weeks. It won't help. The video is just too raw.

Indeed, the airline's initial response to the publicity has left it covered in shame.

United's PR department first issued a statement explaining blandly that the Chicago-to-Louisville flight late Sunday was overbooked, and that “after our team looked for volunteers, one customer refused to leave the aircraft voluntarily and law enforcement was asked to come to the gate. We apologize for the overbook situation. Further details on the removed customer should be directed to authorities.”

United CEO Oscar Munoz then made things worse with a statement of Orwellian doublespeak. “This is an upsetting event to all of us here at United,” he said. “I apologize for having to re-accommodate these customers,” whatever that means.

According to CNBC, Munoz followed up Monday evening with a letter to employees defending the airline's ground staff and describing the passenger as “disruptive and belligerent.” He said the airline agents “were left with no choice but to call Chicago Aviation Security Officers to assist in removing the customer from the flight.”

But Munoz, whose version of the episode appears to come from the playbook of how to dig oneself into an ever deeper hole, also undermined the argument that the flight was overbooked. He related that “after the flight was fully boarded,” gate agents “were approached by crewmembers that were told they needed to board the flight.” The implication is that the crew members heading to Louisville were late in arriving, that every passenger held a paid ticket and had been properly boarded, and that only belatedly did United decide to pull passengers off the plane to make room for the crew.

It's unclear from United's contract of carriage how either its rule regarding “refusal of transport” (Rule 21) or “denied boarding compensation” (Rule 25) applies to a passenger already seated and instructed to deplane to make room for a

company employee rather than another paying passenger.

Whether United had “no choice” but to forcibly eject the passenger also is questionable, as presumably the airline could have transported its crew members to Louisville either by road (a five-hour drive) or by chartering another aircraft. In any event, Munoz in his letter asserts that “treating our customers and each other with respect and dignity is at the core of who we are.”

Plainly this was a botched job in countless ways and at multiple levels. Reports indicate the flight was the last one to Louisville on Sunday, and that United offered passengers an \$800 voucher plus overnight accommodations and an alternative flight leaving Monday afternoon in order to free up four seats for a flight crew needing to reach Louisville.

When the voluntary offer failed, four passengers evidently were chosen at random to be involuntarily bumped. This happened after the plane had been loaded, which is certainly an unusual wrinkle in the annals of passenger treatment. One couple went quietly, but another passenger objected. Before being dragged off the plane, he reportedly identified himself as a doctor with patients to see Monday. When he refused to go, the ground staff summoned airport police, who physically manhandled him out of his seat and dragged him, bloodied, down the aisle as several other passengers documented the event on their smartphones.

What sort of training United offers its personnel to manage such episodes isn't known, but plainly it stinks.

What's even more important is what this episode says about the terms and conditions of air travel in the United States.

To begin with, the law allows air carriers to overbook flights — that is, sell more tickets than they have seats for. That's plainly a situation that benefits the airlines almost exclusively, because it tends to ensure that every seat will be filled even at the cost of leaving some passengers behind. How many businesses do you know of that can sell you a good or service, accept payment and then withdraw that good or service unilaterally for their own purposes — much less by force?

Passengers bumped involuntarily have rights to compensation, but the airlines have great latitude to set their own priority rules for bumping travelers. Typically it's those paying the lowest fares, lacking membership in a frequent-flyer program, or checking in late who are most at risk. Bumpers

By **MICHAEL HILTZIK**
Los Angeles Times

Michael Hiltzik is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may email him at michael.hiltzik@latimes.com



who are going to be more than two hours late to a domestic destination are entitled to compensation of 400 percent of their one-way fare, up to \$1,350, plus the value of their ticket.

These rules, obviously, are in dire need of upgrading to suit modern conditions. The Department of Transportation acknowledges in its outline of passenger rights that some passengers may be more amenable to voluntary bumping than others, or more flexible in their travel plans: “Almost any planeload of airline passengers includes some people with urgent travel needs and others who may be more concerned about the cost of their tickets than about getting to their destination on time.” The agency encourages airlines to “negotiate with their passengers for mutually acceptable compensation” in order to secure needed seats.

As Daniel Gross observed at Slate.com, airlines have squeezed their overbooking privilege until it screams for mercy, even as they're consistently flying fuller planes. In the most recent boom-and-bust airline cycle, the industry “load factor” — the percentage of seats filled — bottomed out at 72.21 percent in February 2009, in the teeth of a crushing recession, but more recently has run in the mid-80s. That appears to be as high as it's been in this century and may be an absolute limit, because some routes will never run at 100 percent.

Tighter passenger loads have coincided with an economic recovery that makes flyers more resistant to giving up hours, even days, of inconvenience, even for a few hundred bucks. As Gross pointed out, a two-hour delay in a flight could translate to a missed family event or a lost business contract.

The solution to the conflict between an airline's desire to fill every seat and passengers' need to get where they're going on time is blindingly obvious: Let the market work. The Louisville doctor's need to get home was clearly worth more to him than \$800. But so was United's need to get a crew from Chicago to Louisville. The airline decided to cheap out by not offering passengers payment that would be enough to free up more seats. Instead of paying the true value of moving its crew, it decided to impose that cost on one unfortunate passenger.

Then, as though to prove beyond doubt that it considered its passengers the expendable players in this drama, it summoned the police to do its dirty work. Something's wrong with the intellects running United Airlines, and if there's any justice in the world, now they'll really pay.

TILLERSON'S

From Page 10

pointment, this kind of hard line response is a pretty remarkable development. Tillerson once headed Exxon's Russia operations, and the company's huge investment in Russia caused Putin to award him the Russian Order of Friendship Prize four years ago. Officials in Moscow may now be having second thoughts about that decision, given the secretary of state's commitment to G7 foreign ministers in Italy Monday that the U.S. intends to “hold to account” any government that commits atrocities against innocent people.

Granted, our new-found appreciation of Tillerson and for Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, may simply be a matter of the administration exceeding extremely low expectations, given not only Trump's fondness for Putin but also his disdain for diplomacy, a point reinforced by the president's proposed 29 percent reduction in state department funding. If the Tillerson-Haley team demonstrates any progress in regard to Syria, it might be to show what can be accomplished through negotiation and not just by lobbing missiles from warships. Surely, a president who regards himself as a dealmaker can see the advantages of solving dilemmas without the kind of senseless and counterproductive military escalation that the last Republican president unwisely pursued in Iraq.

The worst country for women

KABUL, Afghanistan — I was born in Kabul, raised in Pakistan and returned home after the fall of the Taliban to work in what is now the most dangerous country in the world to be female.

My parents' generation had much more freedom than I and the other girls in my family did, and the downward trend continues. Young girls today are even more limited in their choices than I was. In Afghanistan, 60 percent of us are forcibly married by age 16. Only 15 percent of our girls are educated, and fatwas have been issued in some regions banning girls from going to school at all. Women and girls are punished for any “immoral act” that “brings shame” to the family, including elopement or perceived sexual misconduct. Acid attacks, stoning, rape and murder are all deemed acceptable punishments when a man's “honor” has been threatened.

Invasions by Russia and the United States, alongside the ever-present threat of the Taliban and other groups, has meant that Afghan girls and women are in danger both inside and outside our homes. And the situation is only getting worse. Women who try to change the system by entering politics are particularly at risk of being targeted with violence. There is almost nowhere safe for us to go, and when we try to make things better, we put our lives at risk.

Since unlike so many others I've had the benefit of an education, I've put my privilege to use by working for an Afghan women's group that runs an emergency women's shelter in Kabul. We provide a refuge for women and girls fleeing sexual or domestic violence.

Zarina is one of the many girls who have sought our assistance. Now 14, she was only 2 years old when her mother sold her off to a 22-year-old Taliban member. Four years ago, he forced her to move in with him. Between then and last September, when she came to the shelter, Zarina was given food only once a day and was raped on a regular basis. When we met her, she was ill and deeply traumatized.

By **NAJIA KARIMI**
Los Angeles Times

Najia Karimi is executive director of the Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan, a partner of the global women's group Donor Direct Action. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



We helped her get urgent medical treatment and support in the shelter. She soon went back to school, but with nobody else to support her, Zarina is dependent on us. If she returns to her village, the Taliban will stone her to death.

Another girl, Mah Jabin, was 10 years old when she was handed over to a man who beat and raped her over the course of three years. In despair, she poured a gallon of gasoline over herself and lit a match. Her mother found her just in time and put the flames out. She spent a month in the hospital with life-threatening burns and lived with us for a year under continuous medical treatment. We helped her get a divorce and a warrant was issued for her husband's arrest. She is now also back at school.

These are just two of the roughly 200 cases that we take on every single year.

Every instance of injustice and violence is shocking, but the world is now more likely to see atrocities as part of a seemingly never-ending war — the longest in U.S. history — which was supposed to “liberate” women but did no such thing. War can't liberate us, but our lack of liberation can certainly lead to war.

There's a direct link between the civil unrest we have dealt with in Afghanistan for several decades and what happens inside Afghan homes. As Valerie Hudson writes in “Sex and World Peace,” the greatest predictor of whether a nation goes to war is the level of violence against women in that country. We need a new, holistic approach to peace, one that meaningfully includes women in government positions and in active decision-making on the country's future — and one that acknowledges the connection between violence inside and outside of the home.

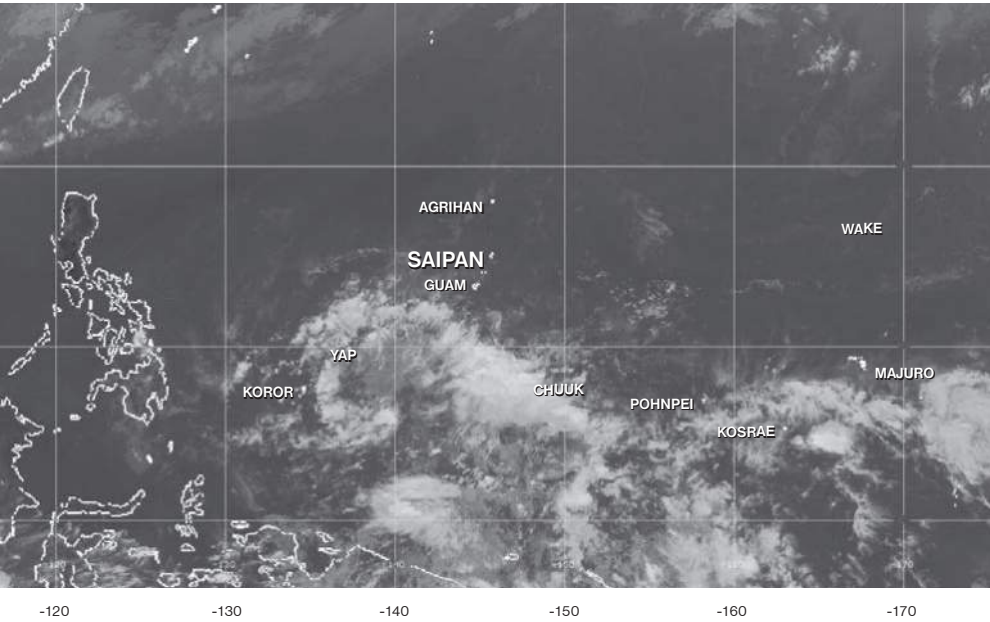
Until that happens, I'll need to keep the shelter running.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partial cloudiness early, with scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon.	Partly cloudy skies.	Windy with a few clouds from time to time.	A few showers in the morning with scattered thunderstorms arriving in the afternoon.	Windy...variable clouds with thunderstorms, especially in the morning.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:26 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance southeast of Yap will move generally to the west-northwest. It is expected to stay well south of the Marianas as it moves toward Yap and Koror over the next few days. Most of the moisture and any increased shower/thunderstorm activity will remain south of the Marianas. However, some moisture from the south has worked its way over the marianas producing scattered showers. Therefore, will continue the slightly higher pops. Guidance continues as it has been for several days with the GFS being wetter than the ECMWF. On Thursday dry conditions return for the Marianas continuing into the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	87	79 °F
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	88	77 °F
Yap	Rain	85	71 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85	79 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85	79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84	78 °F
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	84	79 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	69	62 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	70	48 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	72	68 °F
Honolulu	Cloudy	84	70 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	58	42 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68	52 °F
Manila	Mostly Sunny	96	76 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	74	52 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	80	70 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	63	48 °F
Osaka	Sunny	61	46 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy	65	45 °F
Pusan	Sunny	70	42 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	67	51 °F
Salem	Rain	51	40 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57	46 °F
Seoul	Sunny	63	44 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	60	43 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	68	49 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:07 AM	LOW TIDE		0.69
8:33 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.85
3:24 PM	LOW TIDE		0.1
9:41 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.82

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:21 AM	8:11 PM
Friday	-	8:03 AM	8:59 PM
Saturday	-	8:45 AM	9:48 PM
Sunday	-	9:30 AM	10:37 PM
Monday	-	10:16 AM	11:25 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
				UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily			
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
			5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			

Intn’l workshop bolsters coral restoration efforts

The University of Guam Marine Laboratory and Underwater World will host its third International Coral Spawning Workshop, from April 16 to 23, under the sponsorship of SECORE International.

The workshop, entitled “New techniques for staghorn Acropora restoration in the Indo-Pacific” shares newly-developed protocols for sexual reproduction and rearing of critical but degraded habitat-building corals for restoration and conservation.

Participants representing five countries and ter-

ritories in the region will be trained in SECORE’s novel approaches to coral restoration. Supporters of this effort include The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the California Academy of Sciences (CAS), Henry Doorly Zoo, and other partners. Local sponsors include Micronesia Diving Association, Hertz Guam, and the Port of Guam.

The workshop is part of a global coral restoration initiative led by SECORE, CAS, and TNC to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among international and re-

gional partners. Accordingly, the workshop aims to facilitate future collaborations for coral restoration efforts to support reef rehabilitation in Guam and the Indo-Pacific region.

For more information, please contact Dr. Laurie Raymond at lraymundo@triton.uog.edu or 735-2184. *(PR)*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Dirk Petersen (right), founder of SECORE, trains colleagues in coral larval husbandry at the University of Guam Marine Lab during a nighttime spawning event in 2013.



CAMPUS BRIEFS

GES kindergarten student registration starts April 20

Registration of kindergarten students for school year 2017-2018 at Garapan Elementary School will start on April 20.

The registration times are from 8am to 4:30pm at the GES library.

New students registration for grades 1 to 5, meanwhile,

will begin on June 7, 2017.

The requirements for registration include the following:

- Birth certificate
- School Entrance Health Certificate from CHC or a private clinic (If you have an appointment slip please provide the school with a copy showing the appointment date)
- Copy of updated Health Insurance (Medicaid,

Moylan’s, Traders Insurance, Aetna, Staywell, etc.)

- Map to residence (please be aware of the zoning policy).

GES also reminded parents and guardians of the following:

- Child must be 5 years old to enter kindergarten. Dates of birth must be on or before Sept. 30, 2012.
- Child must be 6 years old to enter first grade. Dates

of birth must be before Sept. 30, 2011.

GES Zoning include the villages and areas of the following:

- North Gualo Rai to Shell Puerto Rico
- China Town
- Upper and Lower Navy Hill
- Garapan Beach Road (up to Marianas Eye Institute)

GES reminded parents and

guardians that a student’s registration will not be entertained without all required documents. All documents must be updated!

For more information, call GES at 237-3341 or 664-3951. *(PR)*

Kagman cluster schools set PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the commu-

nity that the Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017, from 5pm to 6pm at the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents and guardians to attend this meeting. Please call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have any question or concerns. Your support and understanding is appreciated. *(PR)*

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DPS-111

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 28, 2017 TIME: 9:00A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF A 21” JET BOAT
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY”**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART. AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DPS-119

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 28, 2017 TIME: 10:30A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF A CLASS “I” VEHICLE
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY”**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DPW/SWMD-115

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 28, 2017 TIME: 9:30A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF A LANDSCAPING TRUCK 4X4 (FOUR (4) FULL DOORS)
WITH HYDRAULIC LIFT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION”**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-HSEM-122

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 28, 2017 TIME: 10:30A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS “I” VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE
OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY”**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART. AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ GERALD J. DELEON GUERRERO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT, HOMELAND SECURITY
& EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-SAR-116

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 28, 2017 TIME: 10:00A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF A JOHN DEERE GATOR XUV560 S4
FOR THE OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION”**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ YVETTE R. SABLAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT, SUBSTANCE ABUSE
& REHABILITATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-SAR-129

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 08, 2017 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) RIDING MOWERS AND MOWER MAINTENANCE
SUPPLIES FOR THE OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301 CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ YVETTE R. SABLAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE
& REHABILITATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-SAR-135

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 03, 2017 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF A CLASS “J” VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE
OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301 CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ YVETTE R. SABLAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- Preliminary Matters**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - February 7, 2017 Regular Meeting
 - February 14, 2017 Special Meeting
 - Correspondence
- Public Comments****
- Management Reports**
 - Executive Director
 - Update on SO1 and SO2 Projects
 - Update on EPA Grant Projects
 - Deputy Executive Director
 - Chief Financial Officer
 - Legal Counsel
- Executive Session*****
 - Consultation with Legal Counsel on legal matters relating to Contracts, Personnel and Operations
- Board Reports/Miscellaneous Administrative Matters/New Business**
 - Personnel Committee
 - Operation Committee
- Adjournment**

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



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CRYSTAL HAMILTON BEACH 5QT OVAL SLOW COOKER REFUBISHED \$19⁹⁵

EH 7PC STORAGE OTTOMAN \$109⁹⁵

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LINON DAHLIA 5 PC HIGH DINING SET \$279⁹⁵

CRYSTAL HAMILTON BEACH 10CUP FOOD PROCESSOR \$29⁹⁵

AKOUSTIQ PORTABLE BLUETOOTH SPEAKER SE-BS0091 \$29⁹⁵

4 SEASONS HD BAMBOO BLOCK 15.75" L CHOPPING BOARD \$11⁹⁵

CAMPING TENT TY-009 \$34⁹⁵

BBQ PRO 14" TABLETOP ROUND CHARCOAL GRILL \$24⁹⁵

CRYSTAL HAMILTON BEACH TOASTER OVEN WITH ROTISSERIE \$69⁹⁵ SAVE \$30

NWT 9'x7' SIERRA DOME TENT \$35⁹⁵

INTEX INFLATABLE EMPIRE CHAIR \$25⁹⁵

EH 15PC CUTLERY SET \$17⁹⁵

BBQ PRO 22.5 ROUND KETTLE GRILL \$55⁹⁵

Z SHADE 8X8 INSTANT SPORT CANOPY \$59⁹⁵

PRESTO DUAL BASKET DEEP FRYER \$69⁹⁵

ILIVE BLUETOOTH /CD/RADIO BOOMBOX (IBC233B) \$59⁹⁵

CRYSTAL HAMILTON 290 W STAND MIXER W BOWL \$27⁹⁵

COLEMAN 48QT 63 CANS COOLER \$29⁹⁵

EH 8QT PRESSURE COOKER \$35⁹⁵

CORNINGWARE 6PC FRENCH WHITE \$29⁹⁵

NWT KIDS CAMP CHAIR \$8⁹⁵

GRACIOUS TRELLIS LOW BACK STACKABLE PLASTIC CHAIR \$9⁹⁵

EH MILLER BAR STOOL \$99⁹⁵

4X5 FT TARPBLUE \$12⁹⁵

CHILDREN'S PLASTIC SWING RECTANGULAR \$5⁹⁵

TENT SUNNY CAT POP UP HOUSE 106x106x103CM \$5⁹⁵

EXCELLENT DEAL OF THE WEEK



Come and visit us at the Triple J Wholesale Store
We reserve the right to limit quantity purchases on all items.

For more info, please call: 322-0430



MTEC scholarship deadline on April 14

The Marianas Tourism Education Council reminds graduating high school seniors that the deadline for the MTEC Scholarship Program is 4:30pm on Friday, April 14.

The MTEC board will award a \$1,000 scholarship and a \$500 scholarship for two seniors from the class of 2017 who have been members of a MY WAVE Club for at least one year in high school. To be eligible, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Have at least 1-year membership in a high school MY WAVE Club

- Submission of official transcript from last high school attended showing GPA of 3.0 or higher

- Recommendation letter from a current or former teacher, MY WAVE Club advisor, counselor, or administrator

- Essay submission from applicant, describing career pathway/goals and purpose of study (300-500 words essay limit, typed)

- Acceptance letter from university or college applied to



Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects assistant Demalyn Pagarao, standing in red; Marianas Tourism Education Council president Vicky Benavente, standing in blue; and MY Pros' Nola Hix, seated in black; join 5th graders of Koblerville Elementary School for a photo following the MTEC presentation on April 6, 2017.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

- Three (3) proof of MY WAVE CLUB (MWC) active participation

- Submission of the MY WAVE Club/ Community Involvement Summary

Applications are available at the MVA office or by email-

ing MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas (mduenas@mymarianas.com) or Community Programs Specialist Ryan Calvo (rcalvo@mymarianas.com) or by calling 670.664-3200 for more details.

MTEC: Appreciate diversity

As part of its annual school presentations, MTEC is encouraging students to appreciate and celebrate others, including the diverse visitors who come to the Marianas.

Most recently, MTEC presented at Koblerville Elementary School on April 6, 2017, where they taught students which countries most of visitors from the Marianas come from and shared some common greetings from those countries. MTEC also

presented various careers in the tourism industry and urged students to learn Korean, Chinese, or Japanese to be able to communicate with tourists better when they enter the job market.

Guest speaker Nola Hix of MY Pros organization shared her career experiences and some personal advice with the 5th graders at Koblerville Elementary.

"Treat others like you want to be treated," said Hix, in urging students to be kind and accepting of others.

The Marianas Visitors Authority also shared about the purpose and activities of the office, including various marketing and promotions activities in foreign countries.

"This particular MTEC outreach focused on the value of freedom and harmony among our students," said MTEC president Vicky Benavente. "We also emphasized that visitors choose to come to the Marianas because it is a safe and peaceful travel destination."

MTEC was selected as this beneficiary of Saturday's Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Hafa Adai 5K, which was joined by 1,500 participants. (MTEC)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MY Pros' member Nola Hix addresses students during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council at Koblerville Elementary on April 6, 2017. Hix shared about her career experiences and the importance of treating others well.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects assistant Demalyn Pagarao, left, congratulates quiz winners at San Vicente Elementary after the presentation of Marianas Tourism Education Council on March 30, 2017.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MMAC TITLE SPONSORS

2017 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee members and Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director Juan L. Babauta with one of this year's Title Sponsors, Hyatt Regency Saipan. MMAC would like to thank our sponsors for their consideration and support toward our efforts in assisting cancer patients here in the CNMI. This year's Marianas March Against Cancer event will be held on May 5, 2017 at 6pm at Hopwood Middle School.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2017 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee members and Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director Juan L. Babauta with one of this year's Title Sponsors, Delta Airlines.

Business

United CEO issues apology, calls removal 'truly horrific'

CHICAGO (AP)—After people were horrified by video of a passenger getting dragged off a full United Express flight by airport police, the head of United's parent company said the airline was reaching out to the man to "resolve this situation."

Hours later on Monday, his tone turned defensive. He described the man as "disruptive and belligerent."

By Tuesday afternoon, almost two days after the Sunday evening confrontation in Chicago, CEO Oscar Munoz issued his most contrite apology yet as details emerged about the man seen on cellphone videos recorded by other passengers at O'Hare Airport.

"No one should ever be mistreated this way," Munoz said.

The passenger was identified as physician David Dao, 69, of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, who was convicted more than a decade ago of felony charges involving his prescribing of drugs and spent years trying to regain his medical license.

But while Dao's history quickly became a focus of attention, there's no indication that his past influenced how he was treated or that the airline or police were aware of his background or would have known anything about him other than basic information such as his name and address, if that.

Screaming can be heard on the videos, but nowhere is Dao seen attacking the officers. In fact, he appears relatively passive both when he was dragged down the aisle of the jet and when he is seen standing in the aisle later saying quietly, "I want to go home, I want to go home."

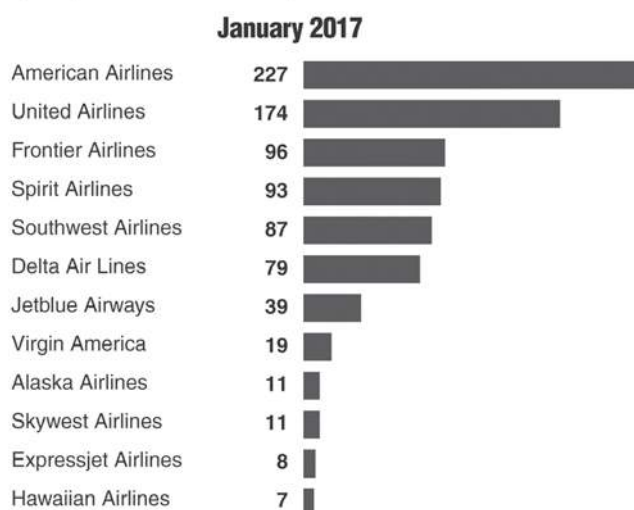
Munoz's latest statement described the removal as "truly horrific." He said the company would review policies for seeking volunteers to give up their seats, for handling oversold situations and for partnering with airport authorities and local law enforcement.

An attorney who represents Dao said his client was being treated at a Chicago hospital for injuries he sustained on the plane and that the family would not comment.

According to records from the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure, Dao went to medical school at the University of Medicine of Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, graduating in 1974. He was licensed in Kentucky with a specialty in pulmonary disease.

Consumer complaints of U.S. airlines

Aviation consumer complaints filed with the department in writing, by telephone, via e-mail, or in person.



His legal troubles started in 2003, when his medical license was suspended after an undercover sting operation at a Louisville motel for allegedly writing fraudulent prescriptions.

According to the documents, the licensing board had learned that Dao had become sexually interested in a patient and hired the patient as his office manager. That man later said he quit his job because Dao "pursued him aggressively" and arranged to provide him with prescription drugs in exchange for sex.

Dao was ultimately convicted in late 2004 of several counts of obtaining drugs by fraud or deceit and was placed on five years of supervised probation and surrendered his medical license.

His longtime effort to get his license back finally succeeded in 2015, when the licensing board allowed him to practice medicine again.

About a year after his medical license was suspended, Dao joined the professional poker circuit, according to his World Series of Poker profile. His biggest competitive win came in 2009 when he took home more than \$117,000 from a tournament in Mississippi.

Airport officials have said little about Sunday's events and nothing about Dao's behavior before he was pulled from the jet that was bound for Louisville, Kentucky. Likewise, the Chicago Aviation Department has said only that one of its employees who removed Dao did not follow proper procedures and has been placed on leave.

No passengers on the plane have mentioned that Dao did

anything but refuse to leave the plane when he was ordered to do so.

Also Tuesday, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel called the way Dao was treated "completely unacceptable" and praised Aviation Commissioner Ginger Evans for taking "swift action." He promised that a city investigation would "ensure nothing like this ever happens again."

The event stemmed from a common air travel issue—a full flight. United was trying to make room for four employees of a partner airline, meaning four people had to get off.

At first, the airline asked for volunteers, offering \$400 and then when that did not work, \$800 per passenger to relinquish a seat. When no one voluntarily came forward, United selected four passengers at random.

Three people got off the flight, but the fourth said he was a doctor and needed to get home to treat patients on Monday. He refused to leave.

Three Aviation Department police officers got on the plane. Two officers tried to reason with the man before a third came aboard and pointed at the man "basically saying, 'Sir, you have to get off the plane,'" said Tyler Bridges, a passenger whose wife, Audra D. Bridges, posted a video on Facebook.

One of the officers could be seen grabbing the screaming man from his window seat, across the armrest and dragging him down the aisle by his arms.

Other passengers on Flight 3411 are heard saying, "Please, my God," "What are you doing?" "This is wrong," "Look at what you did to him" and "Busted his lip."

Nation

Boy killed was 'happy child'

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—An 8-year-old boy shot and killed along with his teacher in a San Bernardino special-education classroom was born with a genetic condition and had survived heart surgery, a school official said Tuesday.

Jonathan Martinez had Williams syndrome, a rare disorder characterized by learning delays, mild-to-moderate intellectual disabilities and heart problems, according to Dale Marsden, superintendent of the San Bernardino City Unified School District.

But affected children also have "extraordinary gifts," including a passion for music and an extremely friendly personality, an expert said.

"By all accounts, Jonathan Martinez was a happy child," Marsden said at a news conference.

A classmate, Jeffrey Imbriani, 7, said he used to talk and play soccer with Jonathan.

"I know him because one day he just walked up to me and said, 'Can we be friends?' and I said, 'Yeah,' and we've

been friends ever since," he told The Associated Press.

Jeffrey said students got out of their chairs and ran outside with their teacher when they heard gunshots.

"I thought they were firecrackers but then

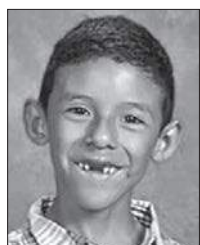
the police started coming and then I realized it was gunshots," he said.

He found out about Jonathan's death when he got home and listened to the news.

"I just felt sad," Jeffrey said. "I will think of him as a very best friend."

Jonathan died at a hospital after being shot Monday in his classroom by the estranged husband of his teacher, Karen Smith, who also was killed. The gunman, Cedric Anderson, then fatally shot himself.

A 9-year-old classmate also struck by gunfire in stable condition, in good spirits and watching cartoons at a hospital, Marsden said. That boy, whose name was not



Martinez

been released, was expected to recover.

The superintendent said the Martinez family wanted to honor Jonathan's memory by getting the word out about Williams

syndrome.

It affects about 25,000 people in the United States, according to Terry Monkaba, executive director of the Williams Syndrome Association.

Children with the syndrome can have learning disabilities and heart problems akin to hardening of the arteries, frequently requiring surgery. As they age, people with the disorder also can suffer from kidney and gastrointestinal disorders, anxiety and depression, Monkaba said.

Children with Williams syndrome can be "overly friendly and endearing," Monkaba said. "They prefer to see ... the glass as half-full rather than half-empty. They look for joy. They love people."

Spicer apologizes for 'insensitive' reference to Holocaust

WASHINGTON (AP)—White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer apologized Tuesday for making an "inappropriate and insensitive" comparison to the Holocaust in earlier comments about Syrian President Bashar Assad's use of chemical weapons—remarks that drew instant rebuke from Jewish groups and critics.

Spicer said in an interview with CNN that he was trying to make a point about Assad's use of chemical weapons and gas against his people but "mistakenly

made an inappropriate and insensitive reference to the Holocaust, for which there is no comparison. And for that I apologize. It was a mistake to do that."

During the daily White House briefing, Spicer told reporters that Adolf Hitler "didn't even sink to using chemical weapons." Critics noted the remark ignored Hitler's use of gas chambers to exterminate Jews during the Holocaust.

It was the second day in a row in which Spicer, President Donald Trump's main spokesman, appeared

to struggle to articulate the president's foreign policy at a critical time. The White House generated criticism at the start of the year when a statement on international Holocaust Remembrance Day did not make any reference to Jews.

In the CNN interview, Spicer said his comments did not reflect Trump's views. "My comments today did not reflect the president's, were a distraction from him and frankly were misstated, insensitive and wrong." He added, "Obviously it was my blunder."

Republicans survive election scare, narrowly win Kansas seat

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Republicans survived an election scare on Tuesday and won a Kansas House seat in the first congressional election since President Donald Trump's victory, but the margin was much narrower than expected in a district that had voted overwhelmingly for Trump in November.

Republican state Treasurer Ron Estes, 60, will represent the Kansas 4th congressional district replacing Mike Pompeo, who Trump named as CIA director.

Trump won 60 percent of the district's vote in November and Pompeo won reelection by 31 points. Estes defeated civil rights lawyer

James Thompson by only about five percentage points, suggesting some backlash against Republicans since November.

"Republicans nationally should be very worried," said Bob Beatty, a Washburn University political scientist. "It's remarkable that Thompson got this close."

In the waning days of the campaign, Republicans pulled in U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas to campaign in Wichita for Estes, and both Vice President Mike Pence and Trump recorded robo calls for him. A flood of big GOP campaign donations and a last-minute ad buy last week of nearly

\$100,000 by the National Republican Congressional Committee also signaled GOP nervousness.

Thompson, 46, was a political newcomer backed by Our Revolution, the group that continues the work of Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign.

Libertarian Chris Rockhold trailed a distant third in the race.

Republicans have represented the district since Todd Tiahrt unseated veteran Democratic Rep. Dan Glickman in 1994. Pompeo won the state's 4th District seat in 2010, when Tiahrt gave it up to run unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate.

Asia

PH: Troops killed militant blamed for beheadings

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops battling militants in a central province killed a key Abu Sayyaf commander who had been blamed for the beheadings of two Canadians and a German hostage and was apparently attempting another kidnapping mission, the military chief said Wednesday.

Military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano told The Associated Press that troops have recovered and identified the remains of Moammar Askali, who used the nom de guerre Abu Rami, in the scene of the battle in a far-flung coastal village on Bohol island, where five other Abu Sayyaf gunmen were killed in the fighting Tuesday, along with four soldiers and policemen.

Ano said troops took the picture of Askali after his death and that captured Abu Sayyaf militants identified the young militant leader.

"This is a major blow to the Abu Sayyaf," Ano told The AP. "If they have further plans to kidnap innocent people somewhere, they will now have to think twice."

The military chief said Askali had led several of militants who traveled by speed-

boats from their jungle lairs in southern Sulu province to Bohol province in an apparent bid to carry out another kidnapping in a region that is popular for its beach resorts and wildlife. Sporadic gunbattles between the remaining Abu Sayyaf militants and government forces continued Wednesday, military officials said.

At least 10 people has been killed since Tuesday in the fighting in Bohol, far from the extremists' southern jungle bases and in a region where the U.S. government has warned that the gunmen may be plotting kidnappings, officials said.

Military officials said at least six gunmen, three soldiers and a policeman had died in the ongoing gunbattle in a village in the coastal town of Inabanga. The island province lies near Cebu province, a bustling commercial and tourism hub.

National police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said troops and policemen attacked the gunmen early Tuesday in Inabanga, where the gunmen had arrived aboard three boats. The gunmen took cover in three houses as the firefight broke out.

Government forces seized control of two of the houses,

and the rest of the gunmen either were in the third house or had fled the area, dela Rosa told reporters.

It's the Abu Sayyaf's first known attempt to carry out ransom kidnappings deep in the heartland of the central Philippines, far from its jungle lairs in the southern provinces of Sulu and Basilan.

Bohol island, where one of the world's smallest primates, called tarsiers, are found, drawing many tourists, lies about 640 kilometers (397 miles) southeast of Manila. Bohol is about an hour away by boat from Cebu province, across the busy Cebu Strait, which is crisscrossed daily by ferries, cargo ships and fishing vessels.

Abu Sayyaf militants have crossed the sea border with Malaysia on powerful speedboats and kidnapped scores of foreign tourists in past years. In 2001, they sailed as far as western Palawan province, where they seized 20 people, including three Americans, from a resort.

"If we were not able to monitor this and engage them with our government forces, it's a cause for alarm if they were able to carry out kidnappings," dela Rosa said.

N. Korea decries US carrier dispatch as parliament meets

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea's parliament convened Tuesday amid heightened tensions on the divided peninsula, with the United States and South Korea conducting their biggest-ever military exercises and the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier heading to the area in a show of American strength.

North Korea vowed a tough response to any military moves that might follow the U.S. decision to send the carrier and its battle group to waters off the Korean Peninsula.

"We will hold the U.S. wholly accountable for the catastrophic consequences to be entailed by its outrageous actions," a spokesman for its Foreign Ministry was quoted as saying by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

The statement followed an assertion by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson that U.S. missile strikes against a Syrian air base in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack carry a message for any nation operating outside of international norms. He didn't specify North Korea, but the

context was clear enough.

"If you violate international agreements, if you fail to live up to commitments, if you become a threat to others, at some point a response is likely to be undertaken," Tillerson told ABC's "This Week."

Pyongyang is always extremely sensitive to the annual U.S.-South Korea war games, which it sees as an invasion rehearsal, and justifies its nuclear weapons as defensive in nature. It has significantly turned up the volume of its rhetoric that war could be on the horizon if it sees any signs of aggression from south of the Demilitarized Zone.

"This goes to prove that the U.S. reckless moves for invading the DPRK have reached a serious phase of its scenario," the North's statement said, referring to the country by its formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "If the U.S. dares opt for a military action, crying out for 'pre-emptive attack' ... the DPRK is ready to react to any mode of war desired by the U.S."

In Washington, White House spokesman Sean Spicer said

President Donald Trump has been very clear that it's "not tolerable" for North Korea to have nuclear-armed missiles.

"The last thing we want to see is a nuclear North Korea that threatens the coast of the United States, or, for that matter, any other country, or any other set of human beings," Spicer said at the Tuesday news briefing.

Trump spoke last week with China's President Xi Jinping about the "shared national interest" in stopping its close ally, North Korea, from having nuclear capabilities, Spicer said, adding that it would be helpful if China was more outspoken on the matter.

"He would welcome President Xi weighing in on this a little bit more," Spicer said.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump also said that he tried to persuade Xi to put pressure on North Korea in exchange for a good trade deal with the U.S.

"I explained to the President of China that a trade deal with the U.S. will be far better for them if they solve the North Korean problem!" Trump tweeted.

World

Tillerson: Pushing on Syria where Obama had failed

MOSCOW (AP)—The Trump administration veered toward deeper conflict with Russia Tuesday as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson arrived in Moscow, gambling that an unpredictable new president armed with the willingness to threaten military action gives the U.S. much-needed leverage to end Syria's carnage.

Yet there were no guarantees Tillerson's arguments would prove any more successful than the Obama administration's failed effort to peel Russia away from its Syrian ally. Tillerson's mission, coming days after 59 Tomahawk missiles struck a Syrian air base, also carries serious risks: If Russia brushes off the warnings, President Donald Trump could be forced into another show of force in Syria or see his credibility wane.

"I hope that what the Russian government concludes is that they have aligned themselves with an unreliable partner in Bashar al-Assad," Tillerson said before flying to the Russian capital, referring to Syria's embattled leader.

"The reign of the Assad family is coming to an end,"



US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson steps out of a plane upon arrival in Moscow's Vnukovo airport, Russia, Tuesday, April 11, 2017.

he confidently predicted.

But Tillerson's claim is one President Barack Obama, too, argued for years, only to see Assad outlast his own term in office. And the Trump administration's nascent Syria policy seems to be increasingly centering on the same tactic Obama unsuccessfully employed: persuading Russia, Assad's staunchest ally, to abandon him.

The parallels haven't gone unnoticed by Russian President Vladimir Putin as U.S. officials have accused his military of know-

ing about Assad's recent chemical weapons attack ahead of time and trying to help cover it up. Calling for a U.N. investigation, Putin held to his claim that it was actually Assad opponents who introduced chemical weapons into Syria's harrowing civil war.

"We have seen it all already," Putin said. Jabbing at U.S. credibility, the Russian leader reminded reporters about unfounded U.S. claims of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, used to justify America's 2003 invasion.

UNICEF: Boko Haram increasingly using children as bombers

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—Radical Islamic militants from Boko Haram are increasingly forcing children to carry out bombings, with the number of attacks since January already nearly reaching the total for all of last year, according to a report released Wednesday by the U.N. children's agency.

UNICEF says at least 117 attacks have been carried out by youth in the Lake Chad basin region since 2014, with nearly 80 percent of the bombs strapped to girls, who were sometimes drugged before their missions.

The very sight of children near marketplaces and checkpoints is sparking fear, according to Marie-Pierre Poirier, UNICEF's regional director for West and Central Africa. As a result, nearly 1,500 children were detained last year across Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad.

"These children are victims, not perpetrators," Poirier said. "Forcing or

deceiving them into committing such horrific acts is reprehensible."

Wednesday's report coincides with this week's third anniversary of the mass abduction of Chibok schoolgirls by Boko Haram, which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.

The mass abduction of 276 girls from a boarding school in Nigeria mobilized an international campaign to find and free the girls, many of whom were forced into marriages with fighters and became pregnant. Dozens quickly escaped, and 21 were freed in October through negotiations with Boko Haram mediated by the Swiss government and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The government denied a ransom was paid and that it freed some detained Boko Haram fighters in exchange for the girls. At that time, officials said they were pressing on with negotiations and

expected the release of a second group but no more have been freed.

UNICEF emphasized Wednesday that beyond the high-profile Chibok abductions, the practice of kidnapping children and forcing them to associate with the armed group has been prevalent.

"Young girls are spotted in the markets, and nighttime raids drag them from their beds. In some cases, parents are killed in front of the girls during the process," it said. "This is typically followed by an extended journey to a Boko Haram base in the forest where the girls are forced into early marriage and sexual slavery."

UNICEF also called for the community reintegration of children who were once under Boko Haram's control, saying many are stigmatized and feared. However, a \$154 million appeal last year for the Lake Chad basin region remains only 40 percent funded, the agency said.

Environment

Appeals court restores lumber companies' challenge to spotted owl habitat

By MICHAEL DOYLE
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—A top federal appeals court has added fuel to a long-running fight over federal protections for the northern spotted owl in California, Oregon and Washington state.

In a unanimous decision Tuesday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the lumber companies united as the American Forest Resource Council have the legal standing to challenge the owl's designated "critical habitat." Federal officials in 2012 designated more than 9.5 million acres in the three states as essential for the owl's survival.

"The council has demonstrated a substantial probability that the critical habitat designation will cause a decrease in the supply of timber from the designated forest lands," Judge Brett Kavanaugh wrote, adding that there's also evidence that "council members will suffer economic harm as a result of the decrease in the timber supply from those forest lands."

Kavanaugh was joined in the decision by Judge Thomas Griffith, a fellow George W. Bush appointee, and by Sri Srinivasan, a judge appointed by former President Barack



TNS
Two juvenile spotted owls perch in a tree after being fed a live mouse in a forest near Mount Rainier, Wash. A top federal appeals court ruled that lumber companies have the legal standing to challenge the owl's designated "critical habitat."

wide array of federal government actions. It is also a bit of a feeder to the Supreme Court, and Kavanaugh and Srinivasan have been mentioned as potential future Supreme Court nominees, depending on which party holds the White House.

Their 16-page decision issued Tuesday could spotlight, moreover, some of the public-lands challenges facing the Trump administration, which essentially inherited the Fish and Wildlife Service's prior actions to protect the northern spotted owl. While the lawsuit names Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke as defendant, the former Montana congressman comes from a state where skepticism of the Endangered Species Act is widespread.

The Fish and Wildlife Ser-

vice identifies the northern spotted owl as a threatened species. This triggered the need to designate its critical habitat. The 2012 designation expanded the size of several earlier designations.

This land is not a sacrosanct preserve, but federal agencies like the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management must consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that actions like issuing logging permits do not destroy or harm the habitat.

Parties bringing legal challenges must show they have standing, which includes the requirement that they have suffered or are threatened with an actual injury.

Kavanaugh said "common sense" had led to the conclusion that logging must decline on lands for which critical-habitat-consultation requirements apply.

"The critical habitat designation means that a huge swath of forest lands in the Pacific Northwest will be substantially off-limits for timber harvesting," Kavanaugh wrote.

Obama. Though they were not ruling on the underlying merits of the Fish and Wildlife Service's critical habitat decision, the court's opinion vividly stressed the vast reach of the designation.

"The designated critical habitat area is roughly twice the size of the state of New Jersey," Kavanaugh wrote. "For Easterners, imagine driving all the way up and then all the way back down the New Jersey Turnpike, and you will

get a rough sense of the scope of the critical habitat designation here."

Lawson Fite, general counsel for the Portland, Ore.-based American Forest Resource Council, said in an interview Tuesday that the organization was appreciative of the appellate decision, which moves the case back to district court. One potential outcome is the trial judge could order the Fish and Wildlife Service to draw new critical habitat maps.

"We think a lot can be addressed by making sure the rule is scientifically supported," Fite said.

Sometimes called the nation's second-highest court, the D.C. Circuit rules on a

Lead poisoning prevention, oil spill cleanup face cuts at EPA

By ARI NATTER
BLOOMBERG NEWS

WASHINGTON—The Trump administration is proposing to slash funding for grants to prevent lead poisoning, climate change research and criminal enforcement against polluters as part of its plan to reduce funding at the Environmental Protection Agency by nearly a third.

An internal budget memo released by the American Federation of Government Employees shows President Donald Trump's plan to eliminate dozens of programs at the EPA and slash many more. The details go beyond what was released by the White House last month as part of its budget proposal, which set an overall 31 percent funding cut, to \$5.7 billion.

"This budget puts America and Americans at risk," John J. O'Grady, president of the American Federation of Government Employees Council 238, said in a statement. It "threatens the lives and dignity of all Americans, particularly the most vulnerable in

our society."

O'Grady emailed the 64-page memo, dated March 21, to reporters Monday.

An EPA spokesman declined to comment on the internal budget plan, which is subject to approval by congressional appropriators and is certain to face bipartisan resistance. The document comes as Trump seeks to make good on a promise to reduce the size and scope of the EPA and roll back Obama-era initiatives on climate and other environmental issues.

"The agency's work will center on our core legal requirements, federal-only and national efforts, providing support to states in implementing environmental laws, and easing regulatory burden," said the memo, which was signed by David A. Bloom, the agency's acting chief financial officer.

Bloom warned those who received it against leaks: "The untimely release of information is not productive and creates unintended consequences."

The document includes a list of more than 200 programs that would face cuts or elimi-

nation. It includes a reduction of more than \$100 million and more than 200 staff positions for research into climate change and climate protection. The agency would also eliminate programs on indoor radon, radiation protection, coastal waterways and leaking underground storage tanks.

And the EPA's criminal enforcement program would be cut by \$1.5 million and see its staff reduced by 34 jobs. That move marks a shift toward "supporting states and tribes as the primary enforcers of environmental laws." Also facing budget reductions is the EPA's oil spill prevention program, which is charged with preventing and responding to oil spills in U.S. waters.

"We understand the core missions of EPA are antipollution enforcement and regulation. They appear to be substantially cutting both," Jeff Ruch, executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility said in an interview. "How any of this benefits the environment or public health remains unclear."

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

† Jose Terlaje Ada

"Josen A'guas/ Captain"

In his new life, he now joins his
Wife: †Soledad Sablan Ada
Parents: †Vicente Delos Reyes Ada and †Remedios Aquininoc Terlaje
Parents In Law: †Nicolas P. Sablan and †Isabell Ilo Sablan
Children: †George S. Ada
†Manuel S. Ada and †Linda A. Ada
†James Michael S. Ada and †Nirisilyn Ada

His memories will live in the hearts of his Children and families:
Ronald S. and Miyako Ada
Rosie T. Ada
Vicente S. and Linda B. Ada
Remedio A. Castro
Henry S. Ada
Solvinialynn A. and Ryan Torres
Bennylynn B. Ada
Vicente Jose B. Ada

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
†Frank T. Ada and Carol Ada
†Teresita A. and Isidro Pangelinan
†Merced A. and Jose Aguon
†Maria A. and †Jose SN. Lizama
Isidro T. Ada
Henry T. and Susan Ada
Vicente T. and Bernadita Ada
Ignacio T. and Teresita Ada

Pedro I. and Bonny Sablan
Maria I. Sablan
†Alicia I. Sablan
†Rita S. and Richard Figuora
Connie I. Sablan
Edward Manibusan
†Gregorio and Frances Sablan
Antonio I. Sablan
Annie S. and Franklin Hunt
Margarita S. and †Jesus Cepeda

He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Please join us in prayers, Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
The Family

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated at St. Jude Church in Koblerville each evening at 6:00 pm.

Funeral Services will held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30am to St. Jude Church.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Life & Style

David Letterman's mom, who became unlikely star, dies at 95

NEW YORK (AP)—David Letterman's mother Dorothy Menger, a Midwestern homemaker who became an unlikely celebrity in her 70s as she baked mystery pies and covered the Olympics for her son's late-night show, has died. She was 95.

Letterman's publicist Tom Keaney confirmed Menger's death Tuesday for The Associated Press.

Letterman had been on the

air for years, and had made ironic celebrities out of dozens of nobodies, before he thought to bring on his mom.

But the moment he did, she became a hit, with a cheerful "Hi, David!" in her Indiana accent starting every appearance.

The two had great on-air chemistry, her homespun sincerity proving the perfect foil for her son's urban acerbity.

Her first appearances came via satellite from her Carmel, Indiana, kitchen for a segment called "Guess Mom's Pies,"

In this Sept. 7, 2007, file photo, David Letterman, right, the host of "The Late Show with David Letterman" on CBS, and his mother Dorothy Menger share a laugh during the dedication of the \$21 million David Letterman Communication and Media Building on the campus in Muncie, Ind.

which became a Thanksgiving tradition. Letterman would make a huge production of the bit before finally declaring, usually correctly, "chocolate



chiffon!" or "rhubarb!" When he was wrong, she would take on a comforting tone like he was a boy who had lost a little-league game.

She soon started making annual Mother's Day appearances too.

She really became a star when the show took her out of the kitchen.

Menger was a correspondent for the Letterman's Late Show on CBS at the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer Norway, a role she reprised for the next two winter games, wearing bulky snow gear that made her tiny self almost invisible, and oozing pure sincerity even in absurd bits Letterman's writers had her perform.

"After Lillehammer, I couldn't believe how it all took off," Menger told The New York Times in 1996. "I think it's about the idea of mom and of a family."

Menger lived all her life in Indiana. She married Letterman's father, a florist named Harry Letterman, in 1942. He died in 1973, and she married structural engineer Hans P. Menger, who died in 2013.

Once famous, she put out a cookbook, 1996's "Home Cookin' With Dave's Mom," that included recipes such as "Dave's Fried Baloney Sandwich" and the secrets behind many of the pies she had baked for the show.

Climate change a character in Discovery's 'Deadliest Catch'

NEW YORK (AP)—Climate change is one of the main characters in the new season of "Deadliest Catch," with the crab fishermen in one of Discovery's most enduring and popular shows forced to deal with a sudden warming of the Bering Sea that chases their prey into deeper, more dangerous water.

That leads the adventure series into its own uncharted waters. The show's 13th season debuts Tuesday at 9 p.m. ET.

"It's a big risk for us to discuss climate change because so many people can think that it's a political issue when really it isn't, particularly in the context of the fishing fleet," said R. Decker Watson, Jr., one of the show's executive producers.

The waters off Alaska that provide the livelihood for the show's real-life stars warmed

by a dramatic 4 degrees in one year. The cold water-loving crab is depleted in the traditional fishing areas, so some of the boats strike out for new territory that is more dangerous because of fiercer storms and is further from rescue workers if something goes wrong, he said.

In fact, the new season documents one vessel lost at sea. It was not one of the crews regularly featured in the series, but all of the regulars knew who was involved, he said.

The developments offer an opportunity to educate an audience that might be less familiar about climate change. The median age of a "Deadliest Catch" viewer is 50 and the show skews 60 percent male which, judging by the results of the last election, might include its share of climate change skeptics. Yet

Discovery isn't interested in preaching; the series is more interested in documenting what is happening, not in explaining why.

There are no scientists aboard the fishing boats, and the show's main purpose is to follow the lives of the crew, said Rich Ross, Discovery president.

"At the end of the day, the job of 'Deadliest Catch' isn't to teach people, it's to keep people at the edge of their seats," Watson said.

The season-opener of "Deadliest Catch" comes two days before Discovery airs the documentary, "Sacred Cod," about the collapse of the cod fishing industry in New England.

Earlier this decade, with the documentary series "Frozen Earth," some environmentalists criticized Discovery for

side-stepping issues surrounding global warming. But at the end of 2015, the network aired the pointed documentary "Racing Extinction" about the depleting of species simultaneously in 220 markets around the world.

At a presentation for advertisers recently, Discovery Communications announced a multi-million dollar effort to fund a project that helps to restore the population of wild tigers in India. The project wasn't picked to avoid the larger, more contentious topic of climate change, but rather to go after a narrower, specific issue with an immediate chance of making a difference, said David Leavy, Discovery's chief corporate operations officer.

The show's new season isn't all about missing fish, as it documents the person-

alities of the men involved in the dangerous pursuit. One captain, Sig Hansen, narrowly survived a heart attack and this season is contemplating how long he wants to keep fishing.

Watson has worked his way up from being one of the filmmakers on a fishing boat to one of the show's leaders, and he feels a personal stake in what's happening in the Bering Sea and on the planet in general.

"When something like this comes up, it's felt by all of us," he said. "I love making this show, and so does the rest of my team. We look forward to going back to Dutch Harbor every year. There's something special about it."

'American Gangster' prosecutor pleads guilty to tax charges

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A former New Jersey prosecutor portrayed by Russell Crowe in the film "American Gangster" has pleaded guilty to failing to pay taxes.

Acting U.S. Attorney William Fitzpatrick said Tuesday that 79-year-old Richie Roberts pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to charges he failed to pay taxes going back to at least 2000.

Roberts told NJ.com (<http://bit.ly/2o1NbFz>) after the pro-

ceedings he was "totally embarrassed."

As a prosecutor in the 1970s Roberts obtained an indictment against Harlem drug kingpin Frank Lucas. The case was portrayed in the 2007 film "American Gangster. Crowe played Roberts, and Denzel Washington portrayed Lucas.

Prosecutors say Roberts faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and fines up to \$350,000. Sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 1.

The next 'The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo' novel has a title

NEW YORK (AP)—The fifth book in "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" series now has a title: "The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye."

Publisher Alfred A. Knopf announced Tuesday a Sept. 12 release date for the novel, to be written by David Lagercrantz and again featuring protagonists Lisbeth Salander and Mikael Blomkvist.

Lagercrantz took over the series after creator Stieg Larsson died in 2004. The Swedish author wrote the first three thrillers, which became an international and posthumous phenomenon.

Knopf editor-in-chief Sonny Mehta says "Revenge is not a fantasy for Lisbeth" and promises she will "exact it with a vengeance."



This image released by Discovery Channel shows a crane removing a pot from the stack as the Summer Bay crew sets its gear in "Deadliest Catch."

Advertisers are fleeing Bill O'Reilly, but viewers aren't

NEW YORK (AP)—Advertisers are fleeing Bill O'Reilly's "no spin zone" on Fox News Channel, but viewers are remaining loyal.

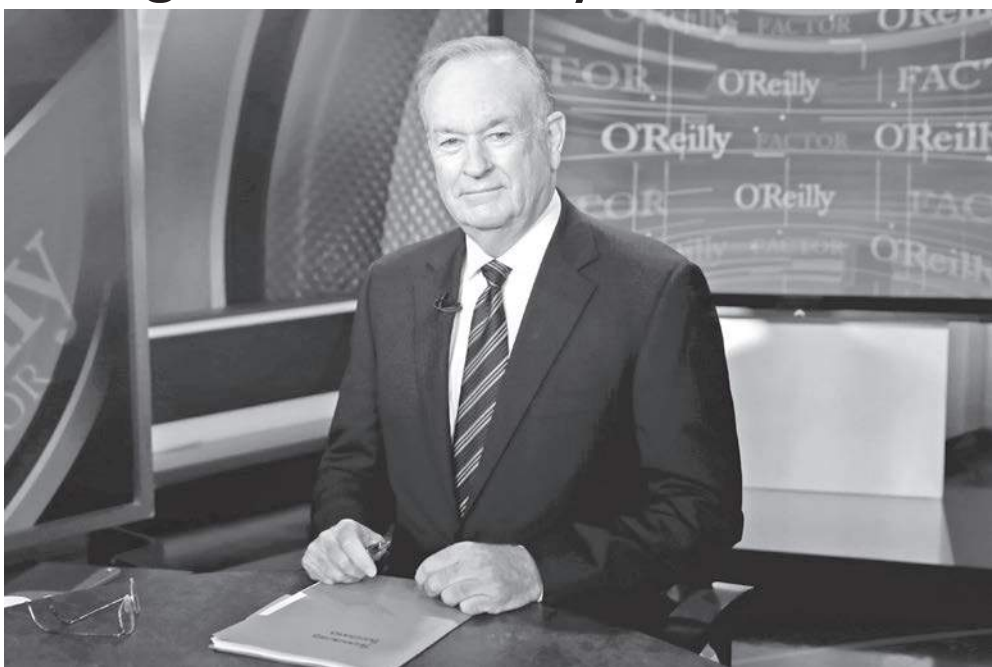
"The O'Reilly Factor" averaged 3.71 million viewers over five nights last week, the Nielsen company said Tuesday. That's up 12 percent from the 3.31 million viewers he averaged the week before and up 28 percent compared to the same week in 2016.

O'Reilly's show averaged just under 4 million viewers for the first three months of 2017, his biggest quarter ever in the show's 20-year history.

"Controversy is a breed-

ing ground for interest," said Marc Berman, editor in chief of The Programming Insider. "So people who otherwise might not have seen his show recently are curious. People might want to see if he addresses the subject. If the ratings were not up, I would have been surprised."

Some five dozen companies have said they wouldn't advertise on O'Reilly's show following a report in The New York Times on April 2 that five women had been paid a total of \$13 million to keep quiet about harassment allegations against cable television news' most popular personal-



AP
In this Oct. 1, 2015 file photo, host Bill O'Reilly of "The O'Reilly Factor" on the Fox News Channel, poses for photos in the set in New York.

reached an important milestone last week. "CBS This Morning" averaged 3.7 million viewers last week, only 354,000 fewer than NBC's "Today" show and 644,000 below ABC's "Good Morning America." That's the strongest a CBS morning news program has been competitively in at least 29 years, the Nielsen company said.

When "CBS This Morning" began five years ago, it typically had nearly 3 million viewers less than "Today" each day.

CBS dominated the primetime rankings last week, led by the NCAA men's basketball championship between North Carolina and Gonzaga. The network averaged 9.1 million viewers. NBC had 5.4 million, ABC had 4.4 million, Fox had 2.5 million, Univision had 1.6 million, Telemundo had 1.4 million, ION Television had 1.2 million and the CW had 1 million.

Bill O'Reilly goes on vacation amid sponsor backlash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bill O'Reilly is taking a vacation from his Fox News Channel show amid sponsor defections triggered by sexual harassment allegations.

Announcing the break at the end of Tuesday's show, O'Reilly made a point of saying it was planned and long in the works. He said he will return April 24.

Around this time of year, "I grab some vacation, because it's spring and Easter time. Last fall, I booked a trip that should be terrific," he said.

His vacation announcement comes as about 60 companies said they won't advertise on his show. The exodus followed a recent report in The New York Times that five women were paid a total of \$13 million to keep quiet about harassment allegations.

The amount of advertising time by paying customers on

"The O'Reilly Factor" has been cut by more than half since the Times report, according to an analysis issued Tuesday by Kantar Media.

But O'Reilly, cable TV news' most popular personality, hasn't been abandoned by his audience. His show averaged 3.7 million viewers over five nights last week, up 12 percent from the 3.3 million he averaged the week before and up 28 percent compared to the same week in 2016.

"O'Reilly Factor" drew an average of just under 4 million viewers for the first three months of 2017, his biggest quarter ever in the show's 20-year history.

On Tuesday, the host offered his audience some general advice.

"If you can possibly take two good trips a year, it will refresh your life. We all need R&R. Put it to good use," O'Reilly said.

ity. O'Reilly has denied any wrongdoing.

It has left his show with a more unusual array of commercials than you'd typically see for a popular program—like Monday night's ad for a device that clears ear wax.

The amount of advertising time by paying customers on "The O'Reilly Factor" has been cut by more than half since the Times report, according to an analysis issued Tuesday by

Kantar Media. In the month prior to the story, his show averaged 14 minutes, 32 seconds an hour of ads by paying national clients, Kantar said. By last Friday, the paid advertising time had bottomed out at 4 minutes, 10 seconds, before rebounding to 7:10 on Monday.

His sponsors lately have been leaning toward more opportunistic direct-mail marketers or other small budget brands, the company said.

O'Reilly had five of the seven most-watched programs on cable television last week, and he more than doubled the average audiences for his rivals on CNN and MSNBC combined. But he was topped by a teammate: Sean Hannity's show last Thursday, less than an hour after it was announced that President Trump had taken military action in Syria, had nearly 5 million viewers.

A broadcast news show

Jury selection in Bill Cosby's case set May 22 in Pittsburgh

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Jury selection in Bill Cosby's criminal sex assault case is set to get underway May 22 in Pittsburgh.

But the trial will be held across the state in suburban Philadelphia, with opening statements to start June 5.

The Allegheny County jury will be sequestered nearly 300 miles from home for what could be a two-week trial.

The 79-year-old Cosby is charged with drugging and molesting a former Temple University employee in 2004.

He has pleaded not guilty and remains free on \$1 million bail.

The judge plans to summon a large group of potential jurors for questioning as the lawyers search for a dozen jurors and six alternates.

The defense fears that widespread publicity about the case could make it difficult to find unbiased jurors.



AP
In this Feb. 27, 2017, file photo, Bill Cosby departs after a pre-trial hearing in his sexual assault case at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa.

Eligible woman bemoans the hordes of clueless men

DEAR ABBY: Could you explain to me why, as a species, men are so blind and stupid? There are millions of smart, funny, sweet, attractive—even sexy—eligible women to whom men do not give a second glance, or even acknowledge that these wonderful women exist. Then, these clueless guys moan about how they can't find a good woman, can't find love, have a hard time getting sex, etc., when there are scores of potentially awesome partners right under their noses! Why don't men ever grow up? Even men in their 40s, 50s and 60s suffer from the same stupidity about the dating scene as teenage boys. I repeat: WHY?!

ELIGIBLE LADY IN ALABAMA

DEAR ELIGIBLE: Coupling up can be complicated these days, because many variables can come into play. Individuals of both sexes can be addicted to a "type" they fantasize about, chase the illusion of eternal youth by pursuing unsuitable partners and/or be commitment-phobic.

That said, you might have better luck with men if you didn't stereotype them, because some of them are encountering the same problems you are. And believe me, they are mystified, too.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 12-year-old girl who has a lot of

friends at school, but lately there has been some tension coming from one of them. "Belle" missed an event that was very important to her. She's usually easygoing, but since then she hasn't been herself, and it's starting to worry some of us. We have tried everything from talking about her favorite topic to trying to write a song for her. Sometimes she acts like herself, but other times she gives me and another friend the silent treatment and the cold shoulder. Is she a friend worth keeping?

CONCERNED FRIEND IN ALABAMA

DEAR CONCERNED: You won't know what's causing Belle to act the way she is unless you ask her directly. There may be more going on in her life than you are aware of that has nothing to do with you. If she's doing it because she's hurt and you weren't at fault, clear the air so she knows it. But understand that the time to be a friend is when somebody needs one.

DEAR ABBY: Three years ago, I lost my wife of 32 years. Every month, on the anniversary of her death, I buy flowers for my house to honor her.

I am now engaged to a wonderful woman. She understands that I will always grieve for the wife I lost, and she has always shown respect for the way I show my grief. My question is, should I stop buying flowers to honor my first wife once my

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



fiancee and I get married and move into a house of our own? I want her to know that she holds the No. 1 place in my heart.

TIME TO MOVE ON IN PENNSYLVANIA

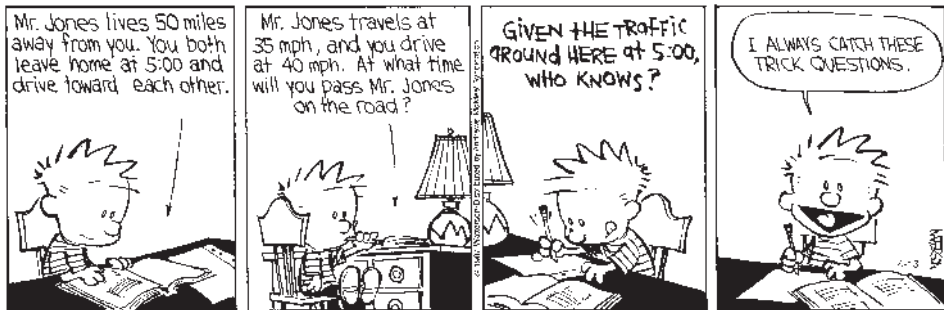
DEAR TTMO: I'm glad you asked. Although the sentiment behind those flowers is beautiful, I do not think it would be appropriate for you to bring flowers for your late wife into the home you will share with your next one. If you feel the need to honor your first wife, place flowers on her grave on her birthday.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



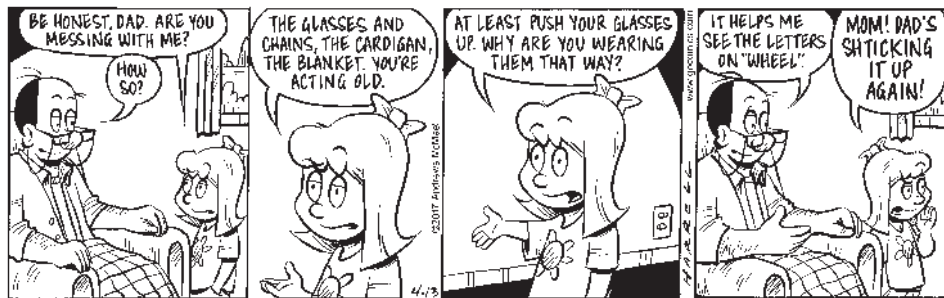
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Now, on a memo
5 Cry
8 Like custard
12 Garage job
13 Right angle
14 TV's "Warrior Princess"
15 Land measure
16 Zodiac cat
17 Baby carriage
18 "Doctor Zhivago" star
20 Coffers
22 Ordinal suffix
23 German cry
24 Lascivious
27 Wicked alter-ego
32 "Blue?"
33 Jeremy of the NBA
34 Here, to Henri
35 Airplane measure

DOWN

38 Rebuff
39 Scottish river
40 He gives a hoot
42 Tiny village
45 Stopped
49 Largest continent
50 Citric beverage
52 Chorus syllables
53 Joyful tune
54 Wolf
55 Raw
56 Norway's capital
57 Feedbag bit

11 Orange veggies
19 Tagged player
21 "2001" computer
24 Legislation
25 Brit. record label
26 Don Quixote's "foe"
28 By way of
29 Guiltless
30 Hosp. section
31 Pen tip
36 Italian ice cream
37 Observe
38 Zigzag in snow
41 You and I
42 Head light?
43 Unrepaired
44 Mexican entree
46 Mystery writer
47 Power co. supply
48 Sprint
51 "CSI" evidence

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-13

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alison Williams, 29; Lorenzo Cain, 31; Rick Schroder, 47; Al Green, 71.

Happy Birthday: Don't lose sight of your objectives. Take note of what's expected of you and the responsibilities you've signed up for. Look for alternative ways to push what you want to the forefront without setting off alarms or butting heads with people you have to get along with in order to get ahead. Make love and romance a priority. Your numbers are 8, 17, 23, 26, 33, 34, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a moment to formulate a good plan before you plunge into unfamiliar territory. Know what you are talking about and what you want to accomplish before you discuss matters with someone well-informed and likely to oppose you. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take on concerns with determination. Your attitude will make others take note and help you execute your plans. Don't forget to put time aside for someone you love. A romantic gesture will improve your relationship to someone special. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your imagination when it comes to work and you will outsmart someone who is trying to manipulate a situation that involves you. Make a point to please others, but not at the expense of your reputation or your pocketbook. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get into the swing of things and participate in functions that can help you connect with those who work in a similar industry as you.

The friendships you start will inspire you to explore ideas that can lead to greater opportunities. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll end up in a face-off with someone who doesn't share your beliefs or lifestyle. Choose not to engage in an argument that could end up costing you financially, physically or emotionally. It's in your best interest to agree to disagree. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Spend time and money to make personal improvements to your home. Gather information that will help you get ahead or will make your life easier and your relationships better. Romance is highlighted. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put a creative spin on a job you are asked to do and you will be rewarded for your innovative imagination. Setting a high standard will ensure that you sidestep complaints from someone trying to make you look bad. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore new possibilities and engage in activities that are geared toward personal improvement projects or events related to children or romantic relationships. Creative hobbies will become an important outlet for stress. Romance will enrich your personal life. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get out and make a difference. Participate in events that will give you the platform you require to show off your skills, ideas and knowledge. The interaction you have with a colleague will lead to an interesting opportunity. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can come up with plenty of good ideas that will put you in a good position for advancement. A personal change to the way you look or do things will have a positive influence on the way others perceive you. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Added responsibilities will keep you busy. Taking care of a friend or relative will lead to mixed emotions. Do your best, but don't get sucked into someone else's dilemma. You will offer better advice and assistance if you keep your distance. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Negotiate and sign contracts that will benefit you. Don't sit back when it's up to you to ask for what you want and offer what you are willing to give. Settlements, contracts and financial matters look promising. ****

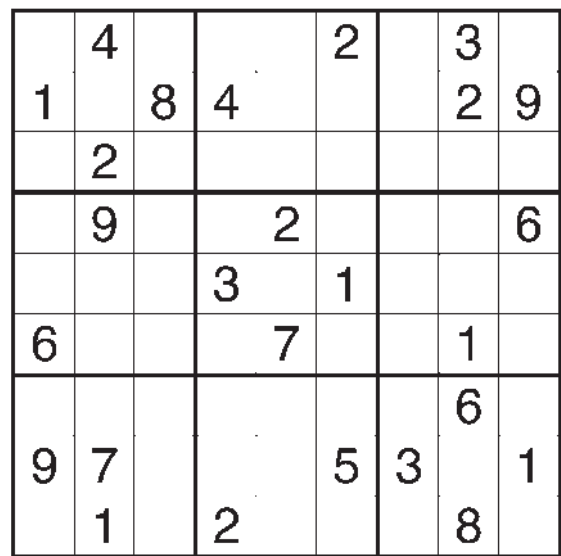
Birthday Baby: You are progressive, tolerant and articulate. You are assertive and imaginative.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



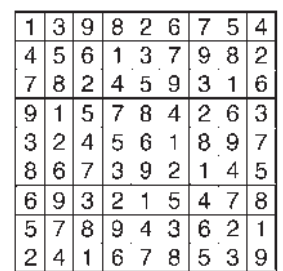
Difficulty Level ★★

4/13

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

4/13

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

OPERA BINOCULARS

Solution: 8 letters

N T E V L E V E G N I H G A D
O U L G G E W C S P A T R O N
I S S A A A E E A N L D O P E
T K T N T T S H D S L W T E L
I S B C O N N L W O E L H R N
D I H O E I E I G I R A E A O
A R L L D H T M V L R C A E I
R R O I T Y E A A A A I T M T
T S T O N P F T N N A B T E U P
C U L S D E O I A I R P R N I
A C E N N N A W N N M O E I R
P O D I P A I R E G R U V M C
M F A U T H G I S R A O L U S
O H C E R U T A I N I M I L N
C O M F O R T M E L Y T S A I

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Yesterday's Answer: Evolution

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO.: 01-0044

-v- :

LUIS A. SASAMOTO :
Defendants :

THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Judgement issued by the Court in this matter on March 28, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant Luis A. Sasamoto in and to the following property: Lot no. 060T01, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 060 T 00 dated October 12, 1990, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 91-083, dated January 3, 1991, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2017, at the hour of 4:00 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.
Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BARTLEY)
DAMASO DEMAPAN) FCD-DI
Petitioner,) CIVIL ACTION NO.
vs.) 17-0007
MYCA DIANNE LIANES)
ORIGENES DEMAPAN) SUMMONS
Respondent,) FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505419 CK, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at PO Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2017.
/s/ Clerk of Court

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 03/31/17
Closing Date: 04/13/17*

JVA#17-006: Special Assistant to the Managing Director
Annual Salary: \$25,000.00 to \$35,000.00** UNGRADED
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#17-008: Statistics Specialist I
Annual Salary: \$23,394.03 to \$24,563.73
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#17-009: Chief Accountant
Annual Salary: \$45,000.00 - \$60,000.00 ** UNGRADED
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

** The salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.

*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

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Nuggets spoil Romo day for Mavericks with 109-91 win



DALLAS (AP)—Gary Harris scored 20 points and the Denver Nuggets beat Dallas 109-91 on Tuesday night with the Mavericks honoring retiring Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo as a ceremonial player.

With nothing at stake in a lost season that will be the worst for Dallas (32-49) since going 20-62 in 1997-98, the Mavericks followed through with an idea hatched in part by star Dirk Nowitzki weeks ago when it was clear Romo wasn't returning to the Cowboys.

Romo was honored exactly a week after announcing he was leaving football to become the No. 1 NFL analyst at CBS.

The soon-to-be-37-year-old had the crowd on its feet in the final minute hoping he could play, but Romo wasn't on the roster or under contract.

After breaking a bone in his back last preseason, the career passing leader for the storied Cowboys franchise lost the starting job he held for 10 years to rookie Dak Prescott and decided not to play for another team.

Mason Plumlee and Malik Beasley scored 16 apiece in the first game for the Nuggets (39-42) since getting eliminated from the postseason. Nowitzki scored 21 for Dallas.

As coach Rick Carlisle put his arm around Romo while the crowd roared in the final minutes, Mark Cuban pulled Romo back to the seat he had next to the Mavericks owner.

The Mavericks let Romo go through shootaround and pregame warmups before introducing him with the starters, the only time he showed his white jersey with "Dallas" across the front with his football No. 9.

Cuban had discussed with Commissioner Adam Silver the possibility of Romo actually playing. Instead, Dallas ended up filling an available roster spot by claiming DeAndre Liggins on waivers from Cleveland.

At least a dozen of his former teammates attended, including Ezekiel Elliott, the standout rookie running back who never got to play with Romo because of the 14-year veteran's injury. The NFL rushing leader for the NFC East champs was there in Romo's No. 9 football jersey. So were plenty of fans.

Longtime friend and tight end Jason Witten had a seat in the first half behind the Dallas bench near Cowboys coach Jason Garrett and Romo's last offensive coordinator in Dallas, Scott Linehan.

Romo said it was a "no-



brainer" to accept the offer of a tribute from Nowitzki, who discussed the idea with Cuban at the party to celebrate the 19-year veteran reaching 30,000 career points last month. Cuban said if the Mavericks were eliminated from the playoffs, he would do it.

On the court, Romo played with his youngest son, Rivers. A long line of media members followed Romo off the court, then filled the room where Carlisle does his game-day interviews for Romo's only chat with reporters.

Hawks 103, Hornets 76

In Atlanta, Dwight Howard had 19 points and 12 rebounds as the resurgent Atlanta Hawks won their fourth straight game, routing the listless Charlotte Hornets to wrap up the No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference.

The Hawks will face the Washington Wizards in the opening round of the playoffs.

A week ago, Atlanta's playoff hopes were in jeopardy after a dismal stretch that included two losses to Brooklyn, the

worst team in the NBA.

Then, in a sudden turnaround that epitomized the team's maddening inconsistency this season, the Hawks knocked off East-leading Boston and recorded two straight stunning victories over the defending NBA champion Cleveland Cavaliers, including Sunday's comeback from a 26-point deficit.

This one was never in doubt. Charlotte played its regular-season finale already eliminated from the playoffs and without its best player,

Kemba Walker.

Thunder 100, Timberwolves 98

In Minneapolis, Victor Oladipo scored 20 points and hit a jumper with 6.3 seconds to play to lift Russell Westbrook-less Oklahoma City over Minnesota.

With Westbrook resting for the first time this season, Oladipo also had nine rebounds and six assists, and the Thunder outrebounded Minnesota 54-35. Starters Taj Gibson and Andre Roberson also sat out as

Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo takes a shot during warm ups before an NBA basketball game between the Denver Nuggets and Dallas Mavericks in Dallas, Tuesday, April 11, 2017.

the Thunder prepare for a first-round series against Houston. Domantas Sabonis added 19 points and nine rebounds.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points and 12 rebounds, while Andrew Wiggins overcame a 1-for-11 start to finish with 18 points for the Minnesota Timberwolves again struggled to get stops down the stretch and Wiggins missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer as they lost their fifth straight game.

Lakers 108, Pelicans 96

In Los Angeles, Metta World Peace scored a team-leading 18 points during what might have been his final home game for the Lakers, and Los Angeles extended its late-season winning streak to five games with a victory over New Orleans.

World Peace made his 840th career NBA start and hit four 3-pointers while scoring all of his points in the second half, thrilling his younger teammates and setting off chants of his name from the Staples Center crowd.

Although he hasn't announced his retirement, the 37-year-old veteran of 17 NBA seasons got several standing ovations down the stretch.

Cheick Diallo scored 19 points for the Pelicans, who lost their fifth straight while playing without big men Anthony Davis and DeMarcus Cousins.

Kings 129, Suns 104

In Sacramento, Buddy Hield scored a career-high 30 points and Ty Lawson had his first career triple-double, getting 22 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds as Sacramento beat Phoenix.

The Kings never trailed, scoring the game's first nine points, leading by 19 at halftime and keeping a double-digit lead the entire second half.

Ben McLemore, Willie Cauley-Stein and Georgios Papagiannis all had 13 points for the Kings. Skal Labissiere and Anthony Tolliver had 12 points apiece. The Kings snapped a two-game losing streak, beating the Suns for the third time in four games this season.

Tyler Ulis had 27 points and Marquese Chriss scored 22 for Phoenix. Leading scorer Devin Booker was given the night off as the Suns finished 24-58.

Final day of season will decide some seeds, matchups

DALLAS (AP)—The two remaining playoff berths will be decided, along with the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference and the site for Game 1 of the series that starts this weekend between the Utah Jazz and Los Angeles Clippers.

Most individual stat races are already sewn up, barring something that would be most improbable. Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook will become the 16th player in NBA history to win two scoring titles, Houston's James Harden will lead the league in assists for the first time and Miami's Hassan Whiteside should be able to wrap up his first rebounding crown.

Golden State's Stephen Curry is a lock to lead the league in 3-pointers made for the fifth straight year, and his Warriors teammate Klay Thompson will finish second in that category for the fourth

consecutive season.

Boston controls the race for the top seed in the East playoffs.

The Celtics will be No. 1 in the East if they beat Milwaukee, or if Cleveland loses to Toronto. The Cavaliers won't have LeBron James on Wednesday night, and are 0-7 this season when he doesn't play.

Depending on perspective, James will either be resting, recovering or revving for the start of the playoffs. It's part of his usual playoff preparedness, since he hasn't appeared in a regular-season finale in a decade.

Cleveland can still be No. 1 with a win and a Boston loss.

Dwyane Wade helped Miami win three championships.

Now, he might help keep the Heat out of the playoffs.

It's three teams—Indiana, Chicago and Miami—for the last two spots in the East

field. Indiana (which plays Atlanta) and Chicago (which plays Brooklyn) control their destinies.

If the Pacers win, they're in. If the Bulls win, they're in. If either loses, the door opens for Miami.

The Heat would reach the playoffs with a win over Washington, and a loss by either Indiana or Chicago.

The 1-8 and 2-7 matchups in the East cannot be finalized until Wednesday. But the other two first-round series are now set, after Atlanta wrapped up the No. 5 seed with a win over Charlotte on Tuesday night.

No. 3 Toronto plays No. 6 Milwaukee in the first round. No. 4 Washington gets the fifth-seeded Hawks.

Indiana controls its destiny for No. 7. There are scenarios where the Heat, Bulls and Pacers all could be No. 7 or No. 8.

However it shakes out, this

much is certain: LeBron James will go up against longtime postseason nemesis Indiana, or his close friend Dwyane Wade, or his former Heat team in the opening round.

And that will be made-for-TV stuff.

Utah hasn't started the playoffs at home since 2001.

The Jazz could change that this year, if they beat San Antonio on Wednesday while the Clippers lose at home to Sacramento. That's the only scenario where the Jazz would be seeded No. 4 in the Western Conference playoffs.

Otherwise, the Clippers will get home-court for the first-round series against Utah.

All the other seeds and matchups out West for the first round are set: No. 1 Golden State vs. No. 8 Portland, No. 2 San Antonio vs. No. 7 Memphis, and No. 3 Houston vs. No. 6 Oklahoma City.



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Yoenis Ces-

pedes hit three of New York's seven homers to back Matt Harvey, and the Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies 14-4 Tuesday night.

Harvey (2-0) left with tightness in his left hamstring after allowing two runs and five hits and striking out six in 5 2/3 innings.

Phillies starter Clay Buchholz (0-1) also exited because of an injury, a strained right forearm. He gave up six runs and eight hits in 2 1/3 innings.

Lucas Duda hit two homers and Asdrubal Cabrera and Travis d'Arnaud also went deep for New York, which has 46 homers in its last 21 games at Citizens Bank Park.

Cespedes fell down on a wild swing on the first pitch he saw, then hit a three-run homer to straightaway center field off Buchholz in the first inning. He connected to deep left in the fourth off Adam Morgan and drove another one way out to left in the fifth against Morgan.

Indians 2, White Sox 1, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Michael Brantley doubled home Francisco Lindor with two outs in the 10th inning as Cleveland celebrated its 2016 AL championship and then beat Chicago in its home opener.

Brantley could only watch and cheer for his teammates last October during their postseason run after undergoing two surgeries on his right shoulder. But he's healthy now, and after playing in just 11 games last season, Brantley made the most of his first home game since May 10 with his game-winning hit.

Lindor walked with two outs off Tommy Kahnle (0-1) before Brantley sliced a 3-2 pitch down the left-field line. Lindor was running on the pitch and scored easily while Brantley danced around second base before being mobbed by his teammates.

It was the dramatic ending the Indians didn't get in their last home game, a 10-inning loss to the Chicago Cubs in Game 7 of the World Series. Cleveland led the majors with 11 walk-off wins last season.

Bryan Shaw (1-0), who took the loss when the Cubs won their first title in 108 years, got the win.

Marlins 8, Braves 4

In Miami, a gray cat went scrambling for cover in the Marlins Park outfield midway through Miami's home opener, and no wonder, given the barrage off Marcell Ozuna's bat.

Ozuna homered twice and had a career-high six RBI to help Miami beat Atlanta.

Announced attendance was

Cespedes hits 3 HRs to lift Mets past Phillies



Philadelphia Phillies second baseman Cesar Hernandez (16) tags out New York Mets' Travis d'Arnaud (18) in a double play after Matt Harvey grounded out during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, April 11, 2017, in Philadelphia.

RBI single, and A.J. Pollock singled, scored and made a stellar play in center field to rob Aaron Hill of extra bases in the third.

Arizona improved to 7-2, matching its best start in franchise history.

Ray (1-0) settled in after pitching out of a pair of early jams and overcame matching his career high of five walks. The lefty struck out eight and allowed four hits over 6 2/3 innings.

Astros 7, Mariners 5

In Seattle, George Springer hit his fourth leadoff home run of the season, Evan Gattis had a bases-loaded pinch-hit double and Houston beat Seattle.

Seattle reliever James Pazos gave up hits to all four Houston batters he faced in the sixth inning—including Gattis' double and a run-scoring single by Alex Bregman—as the Astros scored four runs to take the lead for good.

Reds 6, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Scooter Gennett homered for the second straight night and finished with three hits, helping Cincinnati overcome the early departure of injured starter Rookie Davis to beat Pittsburgh for its sixth win in seven games.

Davis, a rookie right-hander, left in the fifth inning with a bruised right forearm after being struck by a pitch from Pittsburgh's Jameson Taillon. He worked four innings in his second major league start, allowing a run, two hits and four walks while striking out three.

Brewers 4, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Keon Broxton and Domingo Santana hit solo home runs, Wily Peralta pitched six innings for his second victory in two starts and Milwaukee handed slumping Toronto its sixth straight home opening loss.

Troy Tulowitzki went 2 for 3 with 3 RBI but the last-place Blue Jays fell to 1-6, the worst start in franchise history. Three of Toronto's six losses have been one-run decisions.

Peralta (2-0) allowed three runs and five hits. He walked four and struck out seven. Neftali Feliz finished for his second save.

Both Milwaukee homers came off left-hander J.A. Happ (0-2), who gave up four runs and nine hits in 4 2/3 innings.

36,519, and that didn't include a cat that ran onto the field midway through the game. It scurried along the outfield warning track, ran away from right fielder Giancarlo Stanton, crawled up the center field wall and then appeared to get stuck in the animatronic home run sculpture.

Marlins president David Samson said if Ozuna had hit a third homer, the sculpture would not have been activated for fear of harming the cat.

Dan Straily (1-1) allowed three runs, two earned, in five innings for his first victory since joining Miami.

Bartolo Colon (0-1) allowed six runs in four innings.

Angels 6, Rangers 5, 10 innings

In Anaheim, Carlos Perez's squeeze bunt in the 10th inning capped another comeback for Los Angeles, which scored three times in the ninth before going on to beat Texas.

The Rangers led 5-0 through six innings.

With runners on the corners and one out, Perez set down a perfect bunt that hugged the inside grass and died without going foul.

The Angels had rallied to score seven runs in the ninth in the previous game on Sunday to beat the Mariners.

The Angels' ninth-inning comeback Tuesday came off

Rangers' closer Sam Dyson. Down 5-2 going into the inning, the Angels got a solo home run from Danny Espinosa, back-to-back doubles by Yunel Escobar and Mike Trout, and a run-scoring single from Albert Pujols to tie it.

Trout then robbed Mike Napoli of a home run to lead off the 10th.

Cam Bedrosian (1-0) got the win with an inning of relief and Jeremy Jeffress (0-1) was stuck with the loss.

Red Sox 8, Orioles 1

In Boston, Drew Pomeranz struck out six in his season debut, Dustin Pedroia drove in four runs and Boston beat Baltimore.

Christian Vazquez added a two-run triple in the eighth, capping off a 4-for-4 game, as the Red Sox tagged Baltimore pitchers for 15 hits and had back-to-back three-run innings in the seventh and eighth to blow the game open.

Pomeranz, who opened the season on the disabled list with a strained left forearm, took a shutout into the seventh inning. He held Baltimore to four hits and one run in six innings and picked up his first win at Fenway Park.

Pablo Sandoval had a sacrifice fly in the second and Pedroia had one in the fifth off Dylan Bundy (1-1), who was strong through the first six in-

nings. Bundy pitched 6 1/3 innings, allowing three runs and seven hits.

Tigers 2, Twins 1

In Detroit, Matthew Boyd allowed one hit in six outstanding innings and James McCann homered in the fifth to lift Detroit over Minnesota.

Boyd (1-1) took a no-hitter into the sixth before Robbie Grossman broke it up by lining a clean single to left field with two out. The Detroit left-hander struck out six and walked two before turning the game over to the bullpen. Tigers relievers have struggled so far this season, but they were able to close this game out.

Francisco Rodriguez allowed a run in the ninth but recovered for his third save in four chances. Pinch-hitter Max Kepler hit a popup with two on to end it.

Nationals 8, Cardinals 3

In Washington, Daniel Murphy homered, doubled twice and tied career highs with five RBI and four hits and Washington defeated St. Louis.

Matt Wieters and Jayson Werth also hit solo shots to help Washington earn a second home series victory.

Nationals left-hander Gio Gonzalez (1-0) allowed two runs—one earned—over seven innings. He allowed six

hits before retiring his last 11 batters.

Rockies 3, Padres 2

In Denver, Nolan Arenado hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh, Antonio Senzatela threw seven sharp innings for his first major league win and Colorado beat San Diego.

Arenado lined a fastball from reliever Miguel Diaz (1-1) to right for his third homer. Carlos Gonzalez and Charlie Blackmon also hit solo shots to help Colorado knot the three-game series with San Diego at a game apiece. The Rockies have a chance to win their third straight series to start the season, a feat only accomplished in team history by the 1995 squad.

Senzatela (1-0) and his blazing fastball made things difficult for the Padres. He allowed two runs while striking out five. The Rockies' reliable bullpen took it from there, with Greg Holland working his way around a leadoff walk in the ninth to earn his fifth save.

Diamondbacks 4, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Robbie Ray pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning despite some control issues, Jake Lamb hit a bases-loaded triple and Arizona beat San Francisco.

Chris Iannetta added an

Masters behind him, Johnson puts short memory to work

NEW YORK (AP)—Dustin Johnson was back on the stationary bike, moving forward without really going anywhere.

The good news for golf's No. 1 player is that an MRI showed only a deep bruise on the left side of his lower back. If doctors had taken images a little higher up the torso, they also might have seen a slight tear in his heart.

"One thing I never want to have to do again," Johnson said Tuesday, "is watch a major from my couch."

At least he watched. And it wasn't all bad.

He was thrilled to see Sergio Garcia overcome a two-shot deficit in the Masters and two decades of frustrations in the majors. Johnson could relate to that, having been in position to win a major four times before winning the U.S. Open last summer at Oakmont.

Good luck finding someone who can relate to Johnson's experience at the 81st Masters.

Sure, there have been times when a No. 1 player had to withdraw from a major. But not when the player was coming off three straight victories against the strongest fields of the year. Not when that player was five minutes and 20 yards from the first tee.

And never has an injury to a No. 1 player been so bizarre on so many levels.

He had finished his final nine holes of practice Wednesday before the storms rolled in. Johnson had gone to the gym



Dustin Johnson talks with media after deciding not to play in the opening round of the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga., Thursday, April 6, 2017. The world's No. 1-ranked player was, however, forced to withdraw from the Masters because of a lower back injury suffered less than 24 hours earlier in a freak fall at the home he was renting for the week.

and had just returned to his rented house at Augusta when it started raining and he wanted to move his car.

Wearing only socks, he slipped down the staircase, crashing onto his back and left elbow.

"It was terrible," Johnson said. "And the weirdest part is, I never walk around in socks. For some reason if I walk around barefooted, my left foot starts to hurt. That's why I always have shoes on. But I just got back from the gym and wanted to run down and move the car over. And I

slipped."

Johnson said it was the worst pain he has ever felt.

"I thought I broke my back in half," he said. "I really thought my back was broken."

He still thought about playing when he left the practice range Thursday, only to realize on the putting green that he couldn't. Johnson said he was hitting his 4-iron about 200 yards in the air (it usually flies 235 yards) and he had no idea which direction the ball was going until he hit it. Over the next 15 minutes, on the

cart ride to the putting green and a few more full swings between putts, reality won out.

"The more I thought about it, there was no chance," he said. "It just took a while to convince myself."

There was a small measure of relief that tests revealed only a bruise. When he flew home to Florida, he said, his lower back hurt for two days. Now it's in a confined area near the bruise. He has returned to a routine, which includes work in the gym.

"I'm not really doing much," Johnson said. "To-

day I started moving a little bit. Yesterday I did a little bit of chest and arms. Moving up and down, I'm fine. If I'm twisting, it's a little sore. And I'm making some swings, but I'm not hitting any balls."

As bad as the timing was, it

could have been worse.

Johnson had scheduled the next three weeks off, so there will be no temptation to play before he is fully recovered. His next tournament is the Wells Fargo Championship that starts May 4, the first of three in a row.

Rams sign 3 defensive linemen, waive Bailey



THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (A P) — The Los Angeles Rams have

signed defensive linemen Ethan Westbrooks, Matt Longacre and Louis Trincapaso.

The Rams also waived receiver Stedman Bailey on Tuesday.

Westbrooks signed his franchise tender with the Rams after spending the previous three seasons with the club. He beat out Michael Sam for a roster spot as a rookie, and had 24 tackles and two sacks as a reserve lineman last season.

Bailey was a third-round pick in 2013, but he was shot in the head in November 2015 while he sat in a car in his native Miami.

He spent last season on the Rams' reserve non-football injury list while working as a student assistant coach at West Virginia, his alma mater.

Longacre spent the past two seasons with the Rams, playing in 11 games.

In Jacksonville, the Jaguars have released veteran linebacker Dan Skuta, continuing to purge defensive players.

The 30-year-old Skuta has appeared in 112 games, including 26 with the Jaguars. Skuta signed a five-year contract worth \$20.5 million in 2015 that included a little more than \$8 million guaranteed.

He totaled 55 tackles and 1+ sacks in two seasons in Jacksonville. His role was marginalized after the drafting of linebacker Myles Jack last year. Skuta previously played for San Francisco (2013-14) and Cincinnati (2009-12).

He's the latest in a growing list of defensive players Jacksonville has sent packing. The Jaguars released defensive linemen Jared Odrick, Sen'Derrick Marks and Roy Miller and opted not to re-sign former first-round draft pick Tyson Alualu. They also traded defensive end Chris Smith to Cincinnati earlier Tuesday for a conditional draft pick.

NMIFA

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9am to 4pm, bringing together about 200 youth players, who showed their improved skills in each of the 30-minute match spread in the three pitches in KES.

"It's nice to see kids really enjoying the game and having fun with their teammates despite the heat," said NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita, who watched the association's festival for the first time since taking over the post of Kiyoshi Sekiguchi early this year.

"I've been going around and observing games during the season and I could say that I saw a lot of youth players

with potentials. We just have to encourage them to keep on playing and make them enjoy soccer so that they will stay in the program," Mita added.

The NMIFA technical director also thanked the coaches from the different clubs and the players' parents for bringing the kids to every game this season and watching the matches and supporting the players.

The spring season as well as the festival had squads in the three age groups divided into two pools and each team were guaranteed to play three matches.

The co-ed U12 (non-competitive) featured teams from all seven Saipan-based clubs—Paire, Shirley's

Matansa, MP United, Kanoa, TanHoldings, and Southern United. In the co-ed U8, MP United had two teams, while the rest fielded one each. For the co-ed U12 festival, TanHoldings and MP United entered two squads each, while the rest of the clubs were represented by one team.

Results in each game were taken, but not recorded, as the festival wanted to promote sportsmanship and team play instead of focusing on competition.

FA Cup set for April 29

NMIFA will hold the FA Boys and Girls Cup on April 29 with the venue to be announced later.

Teams interested in joining the competition for co-ed U12

and girl U15 are requested to turn in filled-out entry and roster forms as soon as possible as NMIFA needs to work on the schedule of matches. There is no limit in the entries.

The co-ed U12 (competitive), which is scheduled to complete its games next weekend, has five teams in Kanoa-1 and Kanoa-2, MP United, Matansa, and newly crowned division champion TanHoldings. The girls U15age group is done with the spring season with Shirley's FC ruling the category for the fifth straight time. Kanoa, MP United, Southern United, Paire, TanHoldings, and Matansa were the other teams that played in the girls U15 division.

LAST

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drew the most players with 11. See Lee, Sam Ryu, Eugene park, and Andy Kim are the seeded players (No. 1 to 4) and will be joined in the tournament by Hyunmin Cho, Seong Gon Heo, Seung Won Lee, Rintaro Miyawaki, Jaehoon Son, Richard Steele, and Jun Wang.

In the boys U12 singles,

there are 10 entries led by Top 2 seeds Daniel Kang and Anthony Gregoire. They will battle the division crown against David Kwon, Brandon Lee, Jae Yun Jung, Eu Bin Park, Danny Lee, Andrew Chung, Min Gi Jung, and Jiwoong Kwon.

The boys U16 and U10 have only three and two competitors with Sean Lee, Ken Xue, and Heo entered in the former and La Hunn Lam and Nason

Wessel in the latter. The highly anticipated boys U18 singles, on the other hand, will have Top 2 seeds Robbie Schorr and Vincent Tudela and Steven Goodwin, Tony Kim, Michael Ren, and Ken Song.

In the girls singles, the U12 age group has the most entries (7) with JC Ferrer, Anika Camacho, Ashley Cho, Hye Jin Elliot, Olivia Hwang, Helen Kim, and Yejin Son competing for the division crown. The

U18 category will be a four-way fight among Grace Choi, Isabel Heras, Malika Miyawaki, and Tania Tan, while the girls U10 has the same number of entries in Le Mee Lam, Dana Lee, Soarin Oh, and Hoo Wang. In the U14, Maria Gregoire will go head-to-head with Riko Ojima.

Meanwhile, majority of the players entered in the singles events are also playing in the doubles.

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Ol'Aces Extreme, 55-47, while the Knights hammered the Wolves in the second match, 64-45.

Mt. Carmel went all out in the second half after falling behind by a hair at the end of the first, 21-22.

Matthew Richardson led the Knights' attack in the second half after dropping 11 of his game-high 14 points in the final 20 minutes of the match. He also drew a lot of help from his teammates, as five other MCS players scored at least two baskets each in the second half.

In the Ol'Aces Elite-Ol'Aces Extreme tiff, Rikko Saralu, E.J. Abejo, and Carlo Elchico joined forces in lifting the former past the latter for their second victory in as many games. The trio combined for more than half of the Ol'Aces Elite's total output with Saralu firing 12 points and Abejo and Elchico contributing 11 and 7, respectively.

Jedial Manalo paced the Ol'Aces Extreme with his

13 markers.

TUESDAY

670 Sonics /PHI 44 — Contreras 13, Caruana 6, Itaas 6, Tabora 4, Bravo 4, Tabora 4, Morera 2, Bayot 2.

Natibu Warriors 27 — J. Norita 9, Evangelista 6, Kumuch 6, Atalig 5, Lizama 1.

Scoring by halves: 23-15, 44-27.

MONDAY First Game

Ol'Aces Elite 55 — Saralu 12, Abejo 11, Elchico 7, Quitagua 6, Agustin 4, Reyes 4, Dela Cruz 2.

Ol'Aces Extreme 47 — Manalo 13, Villagomez 12, Sagum 7, Rabano 7, Elnas 6, Camacho 2.

Scoring by halves: 26-22, 55-47.

Second Game

MCS Knights 64 — Richardson 14, Deleon Guerrero 10, Saures 6, Muna 6, Castro 6, Yun 6, Quitagua 4, Gamab 4, Yu 2.

Wolves 45 — Soriano 13, Angelo 10, Laxa 8, Ferrer 6, Zhang 6, De Jose 2.

Scoring by halves: 21-22, 64-45.

PIC Hafa Adai 5K Run

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Runners are splashed with holi powder as they head out to the course during the Pacific Islands Club Hafa Adai 5K Run held last April 8.



Derek Chambers, right, and his son Casey are all smiles as they near completion of the run.



Runners wave to the camera as they are about to finish the event.



Runners sprint to the finish line.



Two young runners head to the finish line.



Volunteers splash participants of the 5K run with holi powder in one of the color stops near Hopwood Middle School.



Three runners celebrate as they close in to the finish line.



IT&E employees and their families pose for a photo before the 5K run starts.



Nuggets spoil
Romo day for
Mavericks with
109-91 win

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Cespedes hits 3
HRs to lift Mets
past Phillies

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

670 Sonics/PHI gets first win

Last chance for junior tennis players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Players wishing to make it to the national team will have its last opportunity to gain ranking points as Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association holds the 2017 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships starting this Saturday at the American Memorial Park courts.

The junior championships is the final tournament under NMITA's calendar of events for 2016-2017 season and awards the most ranking points among the various competitions the association lines up every

year. Players need the points to determine their rankings in their respective age groups and those on top of the list have a strong chance of making it to the CNMI Junior National Team that will compete in the 2017 North Pacific Regional Championships in Guam in June.

This weekend's competition will feature singles and doubles events in the girls and boys U10, U12, U14, U16, and U18 age groups with over 50 players spread out in the divisions.

The boys U14 singles

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Maria Gregoire serves to Riko Ojima during their girls U14 singles game in last month's 2017 NMITA Junior Fun Tennis Tournament held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Gregoire and Ojima will collide again in this weekend's 2017 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 670 Sonics/PHI recovered quickly from its debut loss in the U15 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League following a 44-27 rout of the Natibu Warriors last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 670 Sonics/PHI, which dropped its opener against the Ol'Aces Elite (30-33) late last month, used a 10-2 run in the opening minutes of the second half to set up the easy victory against Natibu.

The final half of the 40-minute match started with the 670 Sonics/PHI ahead by 8, 23-15. Clarence Contreras, JC Ferrari, Earl Tabora, Christian Bravo, and Mark Morera then drilled one basket apiece in the short rally against the 2 points of Joel Norita, giving the 670 Sonics/PHI a promising 33-17 advantage.

The 670 Sonics/PHI never relinquished the double-digit lead in the remaining minutes of the game as Natibu failed to



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
670 Sonics/PHI's Christian Bravo draws the defense of four Natibu Warriors players during the second half of their boys U15 division game in the Diaz youth caging last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

make any headway in the second half.

Contreras topped scored in the 670 Sonics/PHI's first win this season with his 13 points, while five of his

teammates chipped in at least two field goals apiece in their 17-point victory. Norita had 9 on a losing effort for Natibu.

Meanwhile, the Ol'Aces

Elite and Mt. Carmel posted contrasting wins in last Monday's pair of U15 games.

In the curtain-raiser, the Ol'Aces Elite edged the

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NMIFA caps spring season with festival

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Three divisions in the 2017 NMIFA Youth Spring League wrapped up the season with a festival, holding a series of matches last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Teams in the three age groups—co-ed U8, U10, and U12 (non-competitive)—played multiple games from

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa, left, and MP United players chase the ball during their game in the U8 division of the 2017 NMIFA Youth Spring Festival last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.